POPULAR
Computing
WEEKLY

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27 September— 3 October 1984

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Vol 3 No 39

THE seventh Personal Computer World Show was held over four days at Olympia last week. Acorn previewed its new business computers, and the new range of Act Apricot computers were on public display for the first time. Full show report inside on page 13.

MSX launch

THE MSX computer system was officially launched last week by the seven Japanese members of the UK MSX Working Group — Canon, Hitachi, JVC, Mitsubishi, Sanyo, Sony and Toshiba.

All of the machines are based on the MSX design standard incorporating the Z80 processor and use a version of Basic developed by Microsoft.

The models and prices are as follows: Canon V-20, 64K, £280.00, available end October; Hitachi HB-H80, 64K, price as yet unannounced, available around April 1985; JVC HC-7, 64K, £279.00, available end October (printer and disc drive early 1985); Mitsubishi (two models) ML-F48, 32K, £249.00 and ML-F80, 64K, £299.00, both available in November (discs available in 1985); Sanyo MCP100, 64K £299.95, available mid-October; Sony HB-75B (Hit-Bit), 64K plus additional 16K Rom for simple data handling (the UK version, unlike its Japanese counterpart, has a

continued on page 5 ▸

Sinclair profits let-down

SINCLAIR Research's profits rose only by a disappointing £253,000 to £14.28m in the year ending March 1984.

Turn-over rose over the same period from £54.5m to £77.7m, according to Sinclair's Financial Statement for 1984, published last week.

In the report, Sir Clive Sinclair accounts for the relatively small increase in profit against turnover rise by saying that "the pocket television and the QL computer both added to costs in the year but little to sales".

The 42% increase in turnover is attributed to continuing demand both in the UK and overseas for the ZX Spectrum, its peripherals and software.

After Timex pulled out of the US market, due to the price war in the States, Sinclair, whose technology was used by Timex also lost a possible £9m plus in turn-over, judging from 1983 figures.

However, the QL is due to be launched in the US before the end of 1984 on mail order, and Sinclair expects it to sell strongly.

Sinclair is apparently relying on high QL sales to increase profits prior to the company's planned flotation next year. Expenditure on raw materials and consumables rose sharply from £33.7m to £54.9m, implying a much heavier research commitment, and stocks of hardware now stand at £7.2m as against £3.8m. The company's net profit fell from 26% of turn-over in 1983 to 16% in 1984.

● *Bandersnatch*, one of the two unfinished Imagine 'mega-

continued on page 5 ▸

The 1984 Microcomputer Chess Championships have been won by a new program developed by Psion for the QL.

Psion Chess will be available next month, priced at £19.95.

ACORN'S ABC PREVIEWED

INSIDE ⟩ PCW SHOW ⟩ AMSTRAD PAGE ⟩ PSION ORGANISER ⟩

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POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

Vol 3 No 39

⟩View

So another Personal Computer World Show has come and gone and this year it left me feeling rather flat.

It seemed that the event is now very nicely predictable.

Even taking into account the new Apricots and Acorns, everything remains in its proper place and under control.

A far cry from the same event only a few years ago which could only have been described as a shambles. Yet it was definitely more exciting then.

It was interesting, therefore, that the seven MSX companies decided against exhibiting at the show because they wanted to distance themselves from the 'hobbyist' industry. The show isn't like that anymore — the dedicated 'hobbyist' is fast becoming an endangered species — rather like the unfortunate tiger cubs on the Microvitec stand.

Something important is being lost. Not that a hand-built colour board for the ZX81 should be regarded as the ultimate achievement.

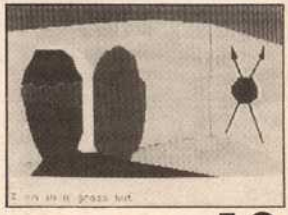
Rather, it is that things have possibly now swung too far in praise of commercialism.

The business is now ruled by The Big Licencing Agreement — Danger Mouse, *The Magic Roundabout*, Eddie Kidd, *Ghostbusters*, Daley Thompson.

The actual quality of the program itself is now almost irrelevant with the magnitude of the *deal* being of paramount importance. And that is to be regretted.

Somewhere in the transition from hobby to big business — in the chaotic surge of the industry — the priorities have got a little mixed up.

⟩Presents...



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Star Game > Build a wall between yourself and certain death in *Wall of Doom* for Commodore 64 **10**

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Best of the Rest

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Brother printer review... Star Game is *Helicopter Fury* for the Amstrad... and a mysterious adventure on the BBC

Editor David Kelly **News editor** Christina Erskine **Features editor** Graham Taylor **Software editor** John Cook **Production editor** Lynne Constable **Editorial secretary** Geraldine Smyth **Advertisement manager** David Lake **Assistant advertisement manager** Alastair Macintosh **Advertisement executive** Tom Watson **Classified executive** Diane Davis **Advertising production** Lucinda Lee **Administration** Theresa Lacy **Managing editor** Duncan Scot **Publishing director** Jenny Ireland.

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ABC

56,052 copies sold every week (Jan-June 1984 ABC).

How to submit articles Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 2000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted. **Accuracy** *Popular Computing Weekly* cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

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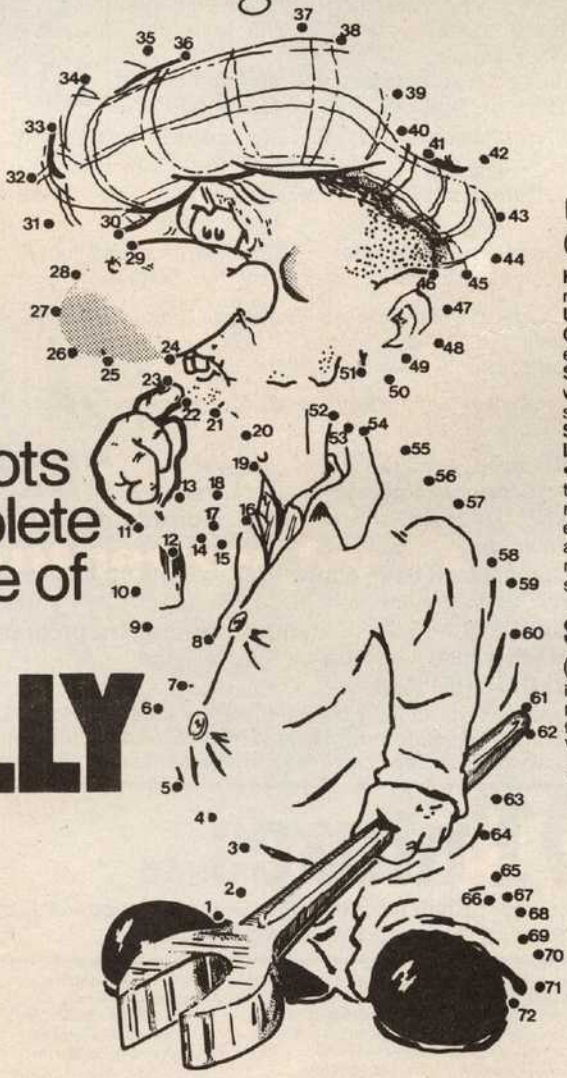
Watch out for Wally in a dream of a Program, Pyjamarama.

AUTOMANIA



Join the dots and complete the picture of a right....

WALLY

CRASH MICRO
COMMENTS

Keyboard play: very responsive
Use of colour: very good
Graphics: superb, with excellent animation
Sound: great tune (continuous) with well used sound effects – sound may be switched off
Skill levels: 1
Lives: 3

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SOLID GOLD
(Home Computing Weekly)

instructions	100%
playability	100%
graphics	100%
value for money	100%

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MSX

Continued from page 1

'professional' quality keyboard), £299, available October (also available in October the Sony HBD-50 360K capacity 3½inch disc drive); Toshiba, HX-10, 64K, £279.95, available end September (also a printer/plotter, £249.95, and a dot-matrix printer, £349.95, both available in October).

Commenting on the MSX system, Chris McLaughlin for the MSX companies commented, "We may either love MSX or hate it as a standard but it's a final solution to the problem of compatibility — achieved by consensus within the majority.

"Nobody is standing up and saying that the Z80 is knife-edge state of the art stuff. It's not necessarily the best — but it's workable — and we can build applications such as home banking and home shopping around it.

"The pricing side was never discussed by the MSX companies together but originally they were hoping to produce them at around £250 — but the way the yen has been going against the pound has meant the cost has had to go up."

Over fifty UK software houses are now committed to supporting MSX. They include Alligata, Andromeda, Artic, Bug-Byte, DK'Tronics, Hewson, Hi-soft, Llamasoft, Mastertronic, Micromega, Ocean, PSS, Quicksilva, Terminal and Virgin.

None of the MSX companies exhibited at last week's Personal Computer World Show. An MSX spokesman explained that MSX is intended as the world's first family computer standard and the seven electronics giants wished to remain apart from the 'hobbyist' end of the industry.

● Casio, Brother and Sharp all now have gained MSX licences and Casio has relesed an MSX computer in Japan.

Sinclair

Continued from page 1

games' may eventually appear under the Sinclair label.

It is thought that Sinclair is in negotiations to buy *Bandersnatch* from Imagine's receivers, although neither Chris Chambers, the receiver, nor Sinclair were prepared to comment on the possibility.

New year machines

ATARI US has announced that it will release new 16 and 32-bit machines early next year.

The 16-bit machine, Atari Corporation president Sam Tramiel said in an interview in Taiwan, will be launched in January 1985, and be non-IBM compatible. He claimed the machine had already been designed by Atari engineers.

The 32-bit micro will be a development from that computer, and be introduced next April.

Sam Tramiel—son of Atari chairman Jack Tramiel—said it would cost less than $1,000 (around £800–£850). If true, the machine could start another computer price-cutting war in the US. IBM's and Apple's nearest competitors both cost over $2,000.

Atari has set a production target for 1985 for these machines of between three and five million at sites in Ireland and the Far East.

Ghosting for Activision

GHOSTBUSTERS, the hit US movie, will be available in the UK as a computer game before the film is released here.

Activision has acquired rights from Columbia Pictures

to develop software based on the film, the theme music of which is currently riding high in the British top ten.

"Our game version will be on sale by mid-November while the movie goes on release in December," said Activision's UK managing director, Geoff Heath. "It features both characters and music from the film, and will be a mix of arcade and strategy action."

Ghostbusters (the game) has been designed by David Crane, who also designed *Pitfall, Pitfall II* and *Decathlon*. It will be simultaneously released for the Atari VCS, Commodore 64 (£10.99), Spectrum (£9.99) and MSX (£11.99) machines.

Top team for Beyond

BEYOND Software has signed up a top programming team to develop a graphic adventure for Beyond.

The team of six programmers—calling itself Denton Designs—includes Ian Weatherburn and John Gibson, both of whom were previously with Imagine Software working on its *Bandersnatch* 'mega-game'.

"The graphic adventure has a working title of *Shadow Squad*, and will be ready in the New Year," said Terry Pratt of Beyond. "The player controls six screen characters, each with individual weaknesses and strengths, sent to a 'Deathstar'-type place on a diplomatic mission."

The adventure uses English text commands, with different graphics for each screen. The player must co-ordinate all six characters to complete the mission.

The game will be released for both the Spectrum and Commodore, priced between £8 and £10.00.

Stratos-jamais!

ORIC has now said that there is no possibility of its new machine—a successor to the Atmos, based around the 6502 processor—being launched this year.

An Oric spokesman said, "It was originally our plan to launch the micro in France before the end of 1984, but there is now no question of it appearing this year. Oric are, however, currently working on a number of new products."

The machine had a working title of 'Stratos'—this will now not be used as another computer company also has a product with that name.

Disc unit for the CPC 64

AMSTRAD has announced its DDI-1 disc unit and interface for the CPC464 micro.

The drive is based on the 3inch Hitachi standard and is a 169K 40-track double-sided double-density disc system.

The disc operating system is either AMSDOS — an extension to locomotive Basic with simple filing commands, or the Digital Research standard CP/M. The system is also file compatible with the single-sided format used by CP/M on the IBM PC.

The CP/M disc is bundled free with the Amstrad disc system. As well as the CP/M disc each drive is bundled with *Dr Logo* on disc, the Digital Research version of *Logo*.

The drive, plus interface, CP/M and *Dr Logo* is priced at £199.95. The system can also support a second disc drive for which an additional interface is not required. The additional disc unit is priced at £159.95.

Sabre Wulf follow up

TWO follow-ups to Ultimate's highly successful *Sabre Wulf* are to be released shortly.

Underwurlde and *Knight Lore* both continue the adventures of the Sabreman.

Underwurlde is an arcade-style game in which the Sabreman must do battle against the inhabitants of the Underwurlde in over one hundred screens. *Knight Lore* is, according to Ultimate, "the first step in a new generation of computer adventure simulation developments".

Underwurlde and *Knight Lore*, both for the 48K Spectrum, will cost £9.95 each.

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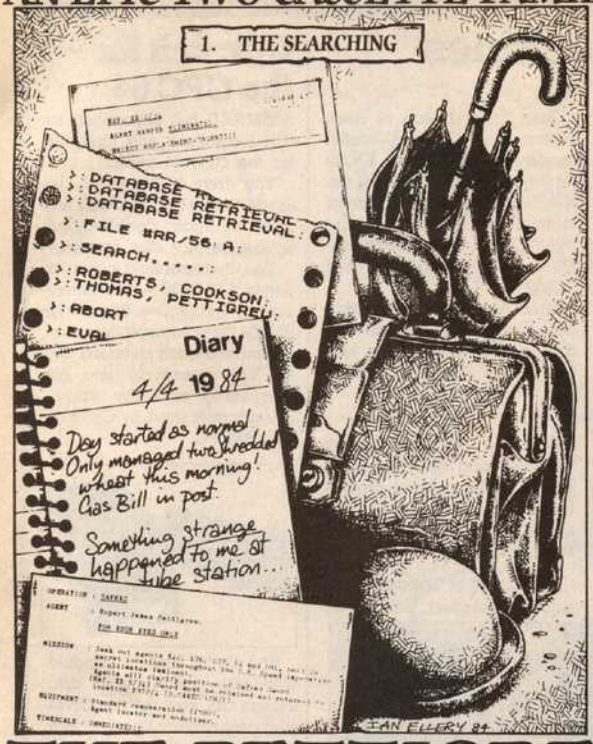

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Letters

Commodore compatibility

Now that production of the Vic 20 seems likely to cease, what will us Vic owners do for software? The C16 has a 16K memory, but are there any plans to make its software compatible with the Vic? If not, will Vic software still be available in the shops?

Jason Watts
13 Winifred Avenue
Hornchurch
Essex

C16 software is not compatible with the Vic20 but Commodore says that it will continue to provide software support for the Vic20.

All change in Superbasic

To alter Alan Turnbull's program *QL Rom* (September 20 issue) for use on the latest Superbasic version JM, change the table address in Lines 190 and 230 to 26724 and 27400, respectively.

Thanks to Alan for this useful little program.

Jonathan Treadgold
11 Bellhouse Walk
Rockwell Park
Bristol
BS11 OUE

From the arcades

I am writing to complain about your review of *Gilligan's Gold* for the Commodore 64. It appears to me that the reviewer has never been into an arcade. If he had, it may have come to his attention that the game is in fact a copy of *Le Bagnard*, a game which has had some success in the arcades.

I would also like to point out that not every game involving moving a player round a screen and climbing ladders is a rip-off of *Manic Miner*. In fact, *Manic Miner* was not the first game of its sort. *Miner 2049'er* for the Atari came out long before *Manic Miner* and is very similar to it. *Miner 2049'er* may have been the game that spurred the programming of *Manic Miner*.

Guy Norton
The Wellyards
Old Road
Weston
Staffs

It is up to the reviewers whether they choose to judge a game entirely on its own merits, or to draw comparisons with other titles.

Better late than punctual?

Both the more recent Sinclair computers were plagued with late arrival dates and broken promises and, consequently, attracted masses of publicity which certainly does not seem to have done any harm to their popularity.

Amstrad, however, arrived on time as a complete package and only seems to have attracted the requisite reviews.

Does this mean that computers have now gravitated to the level of film stars where any publicity is good for the image?

G Phillipson
GP Computer Services
14 Newton Court
Outwood, Wakefield
W Yorks

Microdrive conversion

Re the *Peek & Poke* query in the September 13 issue, entitled 'Copy on to Cartridge'.

It *is* possible to copy *Vu-File*, *Vu-Calc*, and even *Scrabble* to microdrive. R M Jones should write to Draysoft, 2 Bedford Way, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1LB, which supplies excellent conversion programs for the above (I know as I've used all three successfully).

R M Jones could also try the Kopykat microdrive conversion program—but it will *not* work on *Pinball*.

Brian Holden
London

Query answered

I sympathise with John Lawlor (Vol 3, No 35) and Brian Johnson (Vol 3, No 37) with their QL problems. In my experience, Sinclair rarely answer queries. However my *Ver $* is also AH Rom and maybe I can throw some light on *Dline*, *Merge* and the user procedure utility program. Firstly, *Dline* type with no space after *D* but space after *E* then Line Number. Example: *Dline* space line number. Enter. This removes the line but easier still and less typing is to type only the line number then press *Enter* and hey presto, disappeared, you din't need to type *Dline*.

The user procedure utility program has problems on lines 30315 and 30360 — just edit the word *Merge* on both lines and replace with *Load*. This makes all the functions work correctly.

Now to *Merge*. On the QL it does work but it's not very well explained in the manual. If we start with an example, type: 10 PRINT "OWN NAME" press *Enter* then type SAVE MDV1_NAME. Now type: 20. PRINT "AND WIFES NAME", press *Enter* then type: *Merge* MDV1_NAME and press *Enter*. Now type *Run* and on the screen you will see "OWN NAME AND WIFES NAME." You can only merge a program already in memory with one on a microdrive. You cannot merge a program on MDV1 and one on MDV2 without loading one to memory first.

Brian McNulty
14 Millfield Rd.
Bridlington
East Yorkshire

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Learn to Fly Competition—the final week's coupons are on Page 14.

2

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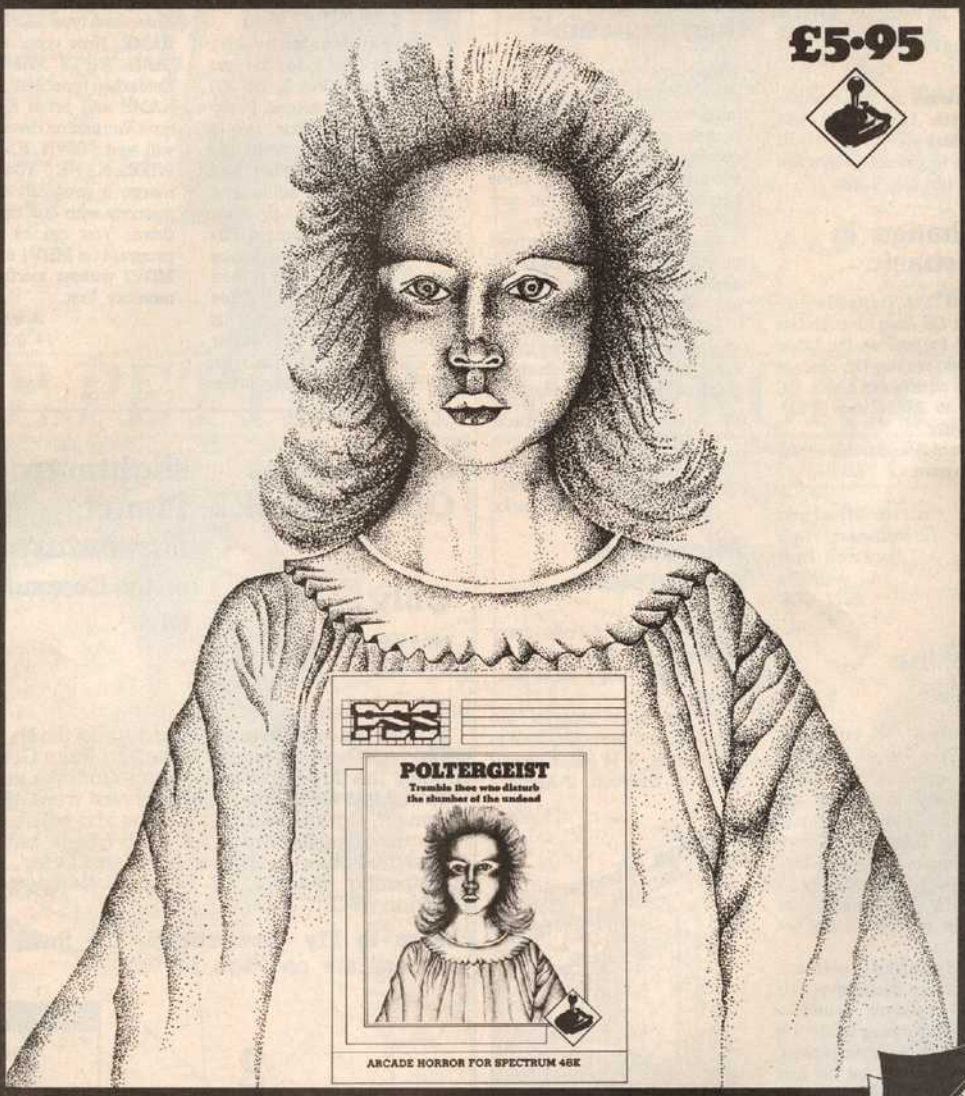

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Holland
Micro Management
Nederlands
Raad Huissmaat 98 2406
Ah Alphen-aan-den-rijn
01720 - 72580

Wall Of Doom

Can you build up your defences and prevent the aliens from getting through? Find out in Yves Suys' game for the Commodore 64

In *Wall of Doom* for the Commodore 64, you must build a brick wall to protect yourself from alien enemies. You have a time limit of just two minutes to complete the wall before death is inevitable.

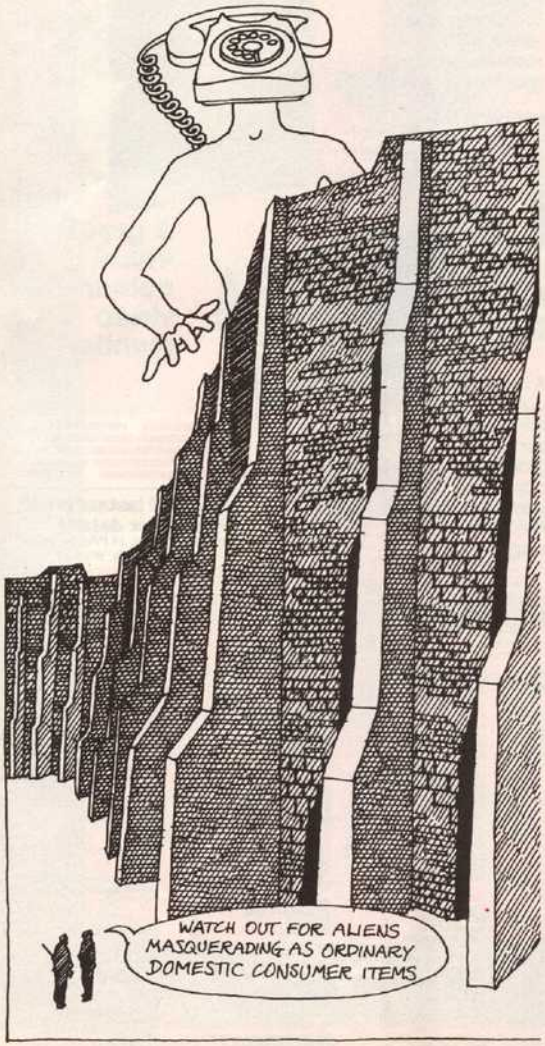
The listing should be easy to follow and understand, with plenty of Rem statements.

Program notes

50 sets up the sound
160-200 sets up the graphics
479-560 prints the instructions

Variables

HF	high frequency
LF	low frequency
DR	decay release
VI	lives
SC	score
HISC	high score
TI$	time
F	X sprite 1
C	Y sprite 1
L	X sprite 2
M	Y sprite 2
H	X sprite 0
K	Y sprite 0
D$	hours
B$	minutes
C$	seconds




```
1 REM********************
2 REM* AUTHOR: Y. SUYS *
3 REM*  FROM WEMMEL    *
4 REM*   (BELGIUM)     *
5 REM* JANUARY  1984   *
6 REM********************
7 HISC=0
9 POKE650,128
10 GOTO480
20 REM*****************************
30 REM* SOUND'S INITIALISATION *
40 REM*****************************
50 S=54272:FORL=STOS+24:POKEL,0:NEXT
60 POKES+5,9:POKES+6,0:POKES+24,15
70 READHF,LF,DR
80 IFHF<0THENRETURN
90 POKES+1,HF:POKES,LF:POKES+4,33:FORT=1TODR:NEXT
100 POKES+4,32:FORT=1TO50:NEXT
110 GOTO70
120 V=53248:POKEV+21,7
130 REM*****************************
140 REM* SPRITES' INITIALISATION *
150 REM*****************************
160 FORA=12288TO12350:READX:POKEA,X:NEXT
170 FORB=12352TO12414:READY:POKEB,Y:NEXT
180 FORC=12416TO12478:READZ:POKEC,Z:NEXT
200 POKE2040,192:POKE2041,193:POKE2042,194:RETURN
210 REM*****************
220 REM* SOUND'S DATA *
230 REM*****************
240 DATA25,177,250,28,214,250,25,177,250,25,177,
    250,25,177,125,28,214,125
250 DATA32,94,250,25,177,250,28,214,250,19,
    63,250,19,63,250,19,63,250
260 DATA21,154,63,24,63,63,25,177,250,24,63,125,19,
    63,250,-1,-1,-1
270 REM*************
280 REM* SPRITE 1 *
290 REM*************
300 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,56,0,0,126,0,0,126,0,24,
    215,24,60,195,60
310 DATA60,195,60,63,231,252,27,231,216,24,195,24,24,
    255,24,0,255,0,0,126,0
320 DATA0,56,0,0,24,0,0,24,0,0,24,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
330 REM*************
340 REM* SPRITE 2 *
350 REM*************
360 DATA0,24,0,0,126,0,0,255,0,0,153,0,0,255,0,0,
    66,0,0,126,0,0,24,0,0,255,0
370 DATA7,255,224,14,255,112,14,255,112,28,255,56,
    28,255,56,0,231,0,0,231,0
380 DATA0,231,0,0,231,0,0,231,0,3,231,192,0,0,0
390 REM*************
400 REM* SPRITE 3 *
410 REM*************
420 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,
    0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
430 DATA255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,
    255,255,255,255,255,255,255
440 DATA255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255
450 REM*****************
460 REM* INSTRUCTIONS *
470 REM*****************
```

```
479 PRINT"□"
480 POKE53280,11:POKE53281,15
484 PRINT"□"
490 PRINTTAB(96)"■THE WALL"
500 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■THE OBJEVTIVE IS TO BUILD"
510 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■A WALL OF BRICKS'"
520 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■WITHOUT BEING KILLED"
530 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■BY THE AWFUL ■ALIEN■"
540 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■■PUT THE FIRST BRICK ON"
550 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■THE ARROW, AND THEN"
560 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ON THE LAST ARROW"
561 REM**********************************
562 REM* READING OF THE SOUND'S DAT. *
563 REM**********************************
565 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■YOU HAVE A TIME OF TWO MINUTES■"
566 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■■TO PUT ONE BRICK!!.■"
570 GOSUB50
571 REM**********************************
572 REM* READING OF THE SPRITES DAT. *
573 REM**********************************
580 GOSUB130
590 FORR=1TO1000:NEXT
600 PRINT"□"
610 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■POINTS' BOARD :"
630 PRINT"■1: A PUT BRICK = 100 PTS"
640 PRINT"■2: A BUILT WALL =1000 PTS"
650 PRINT
660 FORY=0TO39:PRINT"-";:NEXT
670 PRINT
680 PRINT"□'A' TO ASCEND"
690 PRINT"■'Z' TO DESCEND"
700 PRINT"■'H' TO GO LEFT"
710 PRINT"■'M' TO GO RIGHT"
730 RESTORE
740 GOSUB50
750 FORR=1TO1000:NEXT
760 GOSUB130
770 VI=3:SC=0:TI$="000000"
780 REM************************
790 REM* START OF THE GAME *
800 REM************************
810 POKE53280,246:POKE53281,15
815 POKE53248+21,7
820 F=INT(RND(1)*250)+24:G=180
821 IFF>255THEN820
830 PRINT"□":GH=99
840 ************************************
841 * INITIALISATION OF THE VARIABLES *
842 ************************************
850 POKE2040,192:POKE2041,193:POKE2042,194
860 S1=0
870 L=INT(RND(1)*255)+24
871 TI$="000000"
875 A1=1
880 IFL>255THEN870
890 M=INT(RND(1)*130)+40
900 IFM>255THEN890
910 V=53248:POKEV+4,L:POKEV+5,M
940 K=0
950 H=INT(RND(1)*255)+24
951 IFH>255THEN950
959 FORP=1TO30
960 PRINT"■"
965 D$=LEFT$(TI$,2):B$=MID$(TI$,3,2):C$=RIGHT$(TI$,2)
970 PRINT"■■SCORE=■";SC;"   ■LIFES=■";VI
971 PRINT"■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■
```

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Olympia mania

Christina Erskine *finds out what's new at the Personal Computer World Show.*

The seventh Personal Computer World Show opened its doors on September 19th at its new Olympia venue. Though the show was a little smaller than last year it is nicely timed for the autumn launches, and it is still the show that no-one *quite* dares to miss.

All the established hardware manufacturers were there—Sinclair, Commodore, Amstrad, Acorn, Act and even Enterprise, which must count as established by now, despite still not having a product in the shops.

The Enterprise 64K computer was on display, though the promised software and peripherals (joystick and monitor) were hardly in abundance. The Enterprise is now priced at £249.00. At its last launch in March, it was intended to be £228.85.

The highlight of the show as far as new machines were concerned was surely the unveiling of the Acorn Business Computer range.

Still no price details available for the computers, but they range from the Terminal, intended as a machine to give Econet access and a terminal emulator, through the Personal Assistant, with *View* word processor bundled, to the ABC 310, with an 80286 main processor and up to 1 megabyte memory.

Commodore was showing its C16 and the Plus/4, the latter in a low-key way, and Sinclair were selling QLs from the stand. Sales could well have been enhanced by the sight of Psion's '3D' *Chess* program running on the machine, a sophisticated chess simulation which won the World Microcomputer Chess Championship two weeks ago.

Sinclair was also showing a £199 dedicated QL monitor, the Sinclair *Vision*, manufactured by MBM Data efficiency.

Commodore's new networking system, Compunet, was also much in evidence, and Century Communications announced that it would be putting Essex University's Multi-User Dungeon (MUD) on to Compunet. From October 1. Commodore also showed a primitive music keyboard add-on which clipped onto the C64 and acted directly on to the computer's keys.

Conspicuous by their absence were the MSX companies, which, with one exception, did not exhibit, for reasons best known to themselves. Those people who wanted to see MSX machines could find them by discovering which software houses were launching MSX programs—of which more later. Toshiba's HX-10 and the Sony Hit-Bit were both on show demonstrating MSX software.

The one MSX exception was AVT Goldstar's machine, being displayed and demonstrated by its distributors, Micro Dealer UK.

Amstrad's eagerly awaited 3inch Hitachi standard disc drive and interface (see page 5) was shown, if only partly, since most of it was buried in the back of the stand—"We've had to take some precautions—people do walk off with things from shows," explained Amsoft's Bill Poel.

The disc drive will enable users to run CP/M, Digital Research's Dr. Logo is also bundled with it costing £199.00, it should be available in November.

Whatever Atari UK do bring out under the guidance of new chairman Jack Tramiel, it won't be for this Christmas. Nothing new was shown on the stand, which publicised heavily the recent price cuts for both software (games now £9.99) and hardware (800XL is now £199.99).

Together for the first time—Hermann Hauser of Acorn (left) and Sinclair's Nigel Searle.

Most of the larger hardware companies were exhibiting on the ground floor, but up on Level One—which was devoted to business systems—Act's micros made strong display. The F1, F1e, and Portable all made their first public appearances alongside Apricot's more established machines.

Three hardware manufacturers were to be found on the second floor, where most of the home software companies had stands. Memotech had their machines on display—the 32K MTX500 is now £199.00 and the 64K MTX512 £275.00. A wide range of peripherals were also on view.

Oric's stand was notable for its vastness. The Atmos, disc drive, printer and modem were all shown. The last-named however, was not plugged in, and interested visitors to the stand had to be content with gazing at the little black box.

Touchmaster, the company made up of ex-Dragon Data employees and based at its South Wales site, were there in force, showing the Touchmaster graphics tablet, and a variety of graphics tablet programs in the form of overlays for the keypads including early-learning titles and versions of board games such as *Draughts* and *Othello*. The Touchmaster keypad costs £149.00 and the 'Touchware' £9.99 each. The Touchmaster can interface with the Commodore 64, Vic 20, Dragon, Spectrum and BBC machines.

Rotronics' Spectrum Wafadrive was also being demonstrated, and Audiogenic showed for the first time a similar device for the Commodore 64. At £79.95, or £100 with Audiogenic's *Swift*, *Wordcraft* and *Magpie* packages bundled, the drive, manufactured in Canada, plugs into the Commodore's cassette port. The price undercuts Rotronics' forthcoming Commodore version by some £60.

Apart from its microcomputer, the BBC also had a heavy presence with *The Chip Shop*. Recordings for broadcast on the Radio 4 show were heard on the first three days of the show.

The first day had Paul Bailey (Digital Research) Roger Foster (Act) Hermann Hauser (Acorn) and Nigel Searle (Sinclair) cheerfully tackling audience questions and light-heartedly parrying with each other.

All for were happy to agree that the MSX standard was very much a Lowest Common Denominator in the micro world—well they would, wouldn't they?—but were far more guarded when asked their opinions of the new Acorn business micros. Hermann Hauser was excused from answering this question.

Paul Bailey was openly appreciative and said they were 'very exciting'—Roger Foster felt that "Acorn will have as much difficulty breaking into the business market as Act would in the home market." It was left to Nigel Searle to openly admit any rivalry and he said, 'I wish Acorn luck with them, but I won't say if that's good or bad luck.'

The new software was mainly to be found on the second floor, and on emerging at the top of the stairs, it was impossible not to realise that *someone* had acquired the licence to market *Ghostbusters* as a computers game. On following the sound of the film's theme music, it turned out to be Strangely, it was a first meeting for any of the participants.

continued over the page ▶

Competition

Learn to Fly Competition: Week 4

FLIGHT SIMULATOR. To win a chance to try your hand on a real flight simulator — as used by British Airways to train commercial pilots — all you have to do is send off this 'plane' coupon No 4, together with the three coupons from the three previous issues of *PCW* and complete the form below. Send the whole lot off to: 'Flight Competition', Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

The winner will be the person who thinks up the best reason for wanting to fly — the judges decision is final and the competition is only open to residents of the UK and Eire. The competition closes on October 31.

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Program	RRP	PCW price	Tick box
Nightflite II	£7.95	£5.50	☐
Heathrow Air Traffic Control	£7.95	£5.50	☐
Heathrow Air Traffic Control	£7.95	£5.50	☐
Dragonfly II	£6.95	£4.75	☐
Electron	£7.95	£5.50	☐

Name .....
Address .....
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Name .....
Address .....
.....
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4

4

Show report

continued from page 13

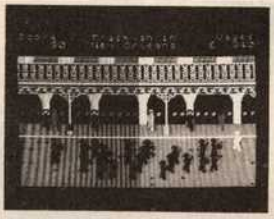
Activision (see page 5) who played the song relentlessly throughout the show. One representative on the stand was moved to remark that here was one record she'd be quite happy never to hear again.

MSX games were demonstrated by, among others, Hudsonsoft, who came to the show all the way from Japan. It had 14 such titles on show, including *Stop the Express*, which has already had some success on the Spectrum. The title was also shown on the C64. Most of its other MSX titles were conventional arcade action but there was also a *Mah-jong* simulation.

Thorn EMI showed a range of licensed MSX titles, including *Ant Attack, Boogaboo, and Games Designer* (Quicksilva) *Hustler* (Bubble Bus) and *Les Flics* (PSS). Prices for the range vary, but are between £6 and £8.

A large crowd was continually present at Llamasoft's stand, where Minter was demonstrating *Ancipital* (£7.50), his latest woolly quadraped. This one is a satyr-like creature, half-human, half-goat, trapped in a maze. To get out, the creature must find and collect five key camels and five goats of Power. Wot, no llamas?

New Generation announced its sequel to the highly acclaimed *Trashman—Travels with Trashman*, and an intriguing looking game, *Cliffhanger*, set in the badlands of Arizona, and featuring permutations on that



Travels with Trashman

time-honoured theme of rolling a boulder off a cliff on to someone's head.

Cliffhanger is for Commodore 64 at £7.95, *Travels with Trashman* £5.95 for the Spectrum.

Beyond software had a batch of new releases on show, including the *Lords of Midnight* sequel, *Doomdark's Revenge* and *Ankh*, a fiendishly difficult looking game for the Commodore 64.

Mirrorsoft's menu-driven *Games Creator* for the Commodore 64 shouldn't provide any problems with difficulty. Anyone who can twiddle a joystick can begin developing aliens, heroes and maze configurations to play a variety of arcade-type games. Three different games are included in the package, which you can alter and modify to your heart's content.

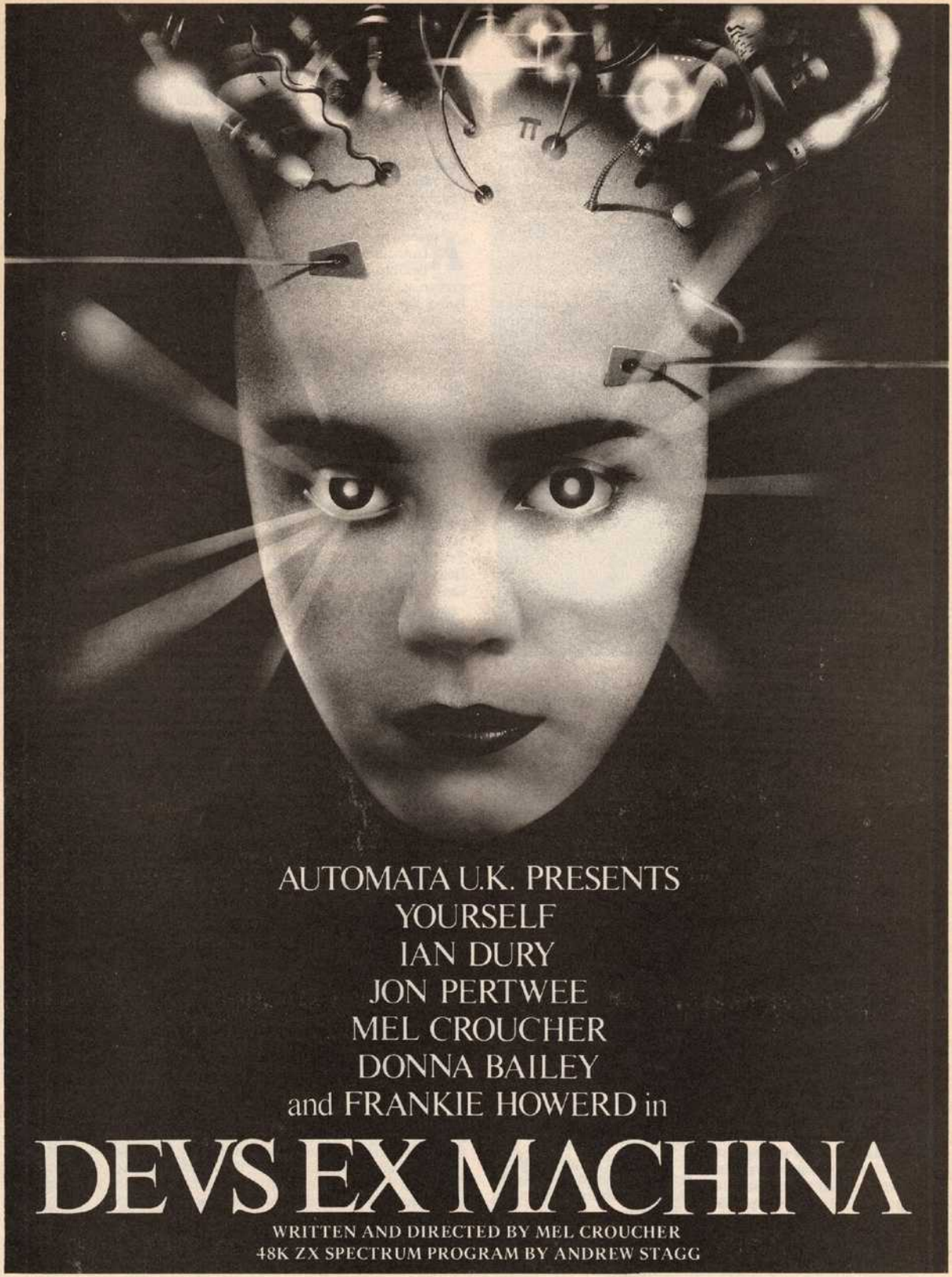
Snooker player Steve Davis was the main attraction at the CDS stand, or at least, the game bearing his name was. *Steve Davis Snooker* gives you the facility to control spin and speed on your shots. The program is to be launched next month on the Commodore 64, Spectrum and Amstrad, with versions for MSX, BBC and Electron to follow.

Level 9 had a couple of new adventures, *Return to Eden* and *The Saga of Erik the Viking*, the last an adaptation from Monty Python's Terry Jones's book. As Erik, you must rescue your family from evil dog fighters in a graphic adventure. *Return to Eden* is the follow-up to the very successful *Snowball*, also an adventure with graphics. *Erik* and *Return to Eden* will cost £9.95. The latter will be available for Amstrad, Commodore 64, BBC, Spectrum, Memotech, Oric 1, Lynx and Atari, while *Erik* will be released on BBC, C64 and Spectrum, with an Amstrad version to follow.

Another licensed program, *The Magic Roundabout* was being shown for the first time at CRL's (now CRL Group pic) stand. Billed as non-violent, the scenario involves Dougal (the yellow blob) trying to build a house of sugar cubes, thwarted by the other Magic Garden characters. £5.95 for the Spectrum.

If these were the highlights of the Show, then what of the low points?

Microvitec deserves a fairly hefty rebuke from the RSPCA for promoting its cub colour display monitors by having three live tiger cubs caged at their stand. Don't try and tell me they enjoyed the show.



PLEASE USE THE AUTOMATA ORDER COUPON ON THE BACK COVER

Spreadsheet

Program *Mini Office* **Price** £5.95 **Micro** BBC B **Supplier** Database Publications, Europa House, 68 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5NY

The facilities provided in *Mini Office* cover all the standard business applications — word processor, database, spreadsheet and graphics programs. It seems sound to offer these as one package, and as such it provides a complete introduction to a business system.

However, anyone intending to make serious use of a business system would be well advised to study the market carefully and look at the facilities offered by each package before buying. This one would provide an excellent introduction to each kind of program, but could prove frustrating after a while because of its limitations. For example, the word processor does not allow for 'search and replace'; the database is a flat file of maximum 156 records.

In short I would prefer to save up for a more powerful version of each program. However, it represents good value for money if its limitations can be accepted.

Jan Watterson

```
ESCAPE..Always returns to this page.
f0......Large letter editing mode.
f1......Normal letter editing mode.
f2......Typing speed in words/minute.
f3......Print text file.
f4......Copy on/off.
f5......Set tab key.
f6......Save text file.
f7......Load text file.
f8......Clear text file.
f9......Page end marker.
```

Traditional

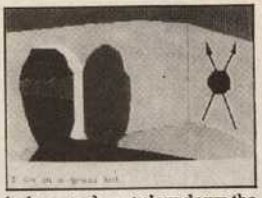
Program *Eye of Bain* **Micro** Spectrum 48K **Price** £5.95 **Supplier** Artic Computing Ltd, Main Street, Brandesburton, Driffield YO25 8RL.

Tarl, the warrior , lies chained to a pole in a grass hut, his mission to find the priceless Eye of Bain cruelly interrupted by savage Alvanians. If only he could escape he could continue, but ...

Actually it took this reviewer rather a long time to solve this first puzzle but eventually, with one verb/noun, he was free to roam through this, Artic's Adventure 'F'. Fans of its predecessors will not be disappointed. There are many locations spread around the native village, from tall trees with apes to deep wells with shapeless black beasts. To advance, or even survive, calls for careful planning.

Author Simon Wadsworth has discarded 'Help' and 'Score' routines, but a useful system of capitals indicates which nouns are recognised.

Eye of Bain also illustrates its locations, and though this does not add materially, the pictures are nicely executed. Thankfully they only appear when called up, so do not slow down the fast responses to the text commands. In short this program makes no great innovations, but should please anybody looking for a traditional adventure.



John Minson

Addressed

Program *Random Access Mailing* **Micro** BBC B **Price** £34.99 **Supplier** Micro-Aid, 25 Fore Street, Praze, Cornwall.

Random Access Mailing from Micro-Aid is a flexible address filing system, its two main functions being the provision of label printing and letterhead addressing routines.

The main options offered by the menu-driven program consist of: data entry, deletion and alteration; list data; label and letterhead printing; and data search and sort routines.

The data record consists of a name and address, telephone number, personal contact and record code option, this latter can be used to define a record as business or personal and can include codes to facilitate selective printing of labels etc. Searches and sorts may be performed using the address, telephone number code or contact name.

Thus, the program offers a considerable level of flexibility and control and is aimed therefore at those concerned with, for example, distribution of circulars, market researchers, mail-order operators etc — as well as the general office user, for any place, at any time, with the application program. This can also simulate a planetarium, moving the heavens by step. A 54 page manual, sensibly designed to stand vertically by the screen, completes the pack. It is written for the beginner and explains the technicalities with admirable clarity.

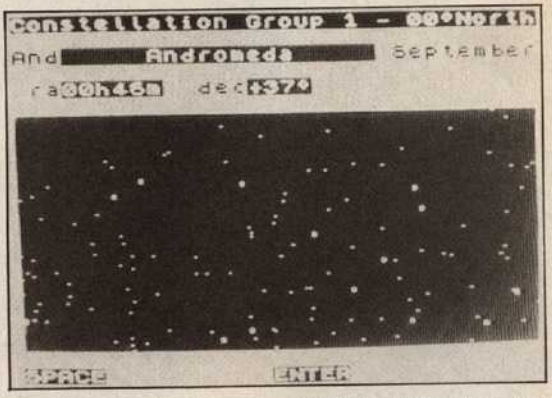
Sadly, *Star Watcher* seems to have some surprising blemishes. Most entries have a Yes/No double check, but not the 'Exit Program' routine — where it is needed most. More important are discrepancies between the manual and program, including reference to a Teaching Module which is, apparently, not on the tape. If

Night Sky

Program *Star Watcher* **Micro** Spectrum 48K **Price** £15.00 **Supplier** Brainpower, Triptych Publishing Limited, Sterling House, Station Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

Application through learning is the philosophy of Brainpower, and this lavish package contains two cassettes, or one microdrive cartridge, devoted to educating and aiding the amateur astronomer.

Both programs are menu driven, with displays centred on a broad window in which the stars appear as single or multi-



pixel dots. The education section concentrats on constellation recognition, building up each from its key stars to a full sky picture. A test facility is provided.

The more experienced user can call up a celestial display Triptych corrected these few faults they would have a versatile educational tool in which the contents, for once, matched the packaging quality.

John Minson

club secretaries, schools and so on.

It was with some sense of disappointment, therefore, that when running the program I viewed an almost immediate error message "Syntax error at Line 17010"; Well, the origin of this was identified, and a point to mention is that if you possess a system operating Basic I, as opposed to the more recent version, you will have to alter the program *MAILrnd*. The modification is minor, changing the semi-colon following the *Inputtab* statement in Line 17010 to a comma (the Basic I equivalent) does the trick, then re-saving this *MAILrnd* or typing *Goto* 10 in command mode should allow you to proceed.

The data entry routine took some getting used to, a rather constrained format is required to permit the program its level of complexity in the selective search, sort and print routines. The size of the data base is dependent upon the disc system available, 525, 1200, 925 and 1785 records on 40 track single density, 80 track single density, 40 track double density and 80 track double density units, respectively.

In its label printing operation the program provides a very flexible system for configuring label printing to meet the individual's requirements and the formats of various printers. To print letterhead addresses the program is written in such a manner as to allow the address to be added to text-files created using *Wordwise*, in addition to standard blank paper headings. The program will in this option insert the address, date and name (defined as the personal contact) into the text where appropriate.

One peculiarity I found was that when printing an address, the personal contact name, if included in a record, was printed above the address. If the address record also included a name this gave rise to a double name preceding the address. Finally, the personal contact name is limited to twelve characters. Thus if you include a title and initial you are likely to get a severely truncated surname appearing.

Simon Wilson

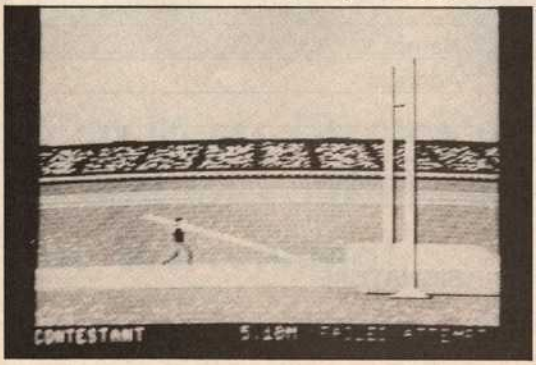
High dive

Program *Summer Games* **Micro** Commodore 64 **Price** £19.95 (disc) £14.95 (two cassettes) **Supplier** Quicksilva, Palmerston Park House, 13 Palmerston Road, Southampton, Hants.

Summer Games is another *Track and Field* variant in which you get to play every kind of sporting star known to mankind (the crowd only applauds if you are American though).

There can be little doubt though that despite the large number of similar titles this one is far and away the best.

It was written for the Commodore by the US house Epyx and is being marketed in this country by Quicksilva. The success of the game comes from its spectacular graphics. Unlike some of the other variants, this one introduces sports like high diving and gymnastics which require something other than the usual yanking of the joystick.



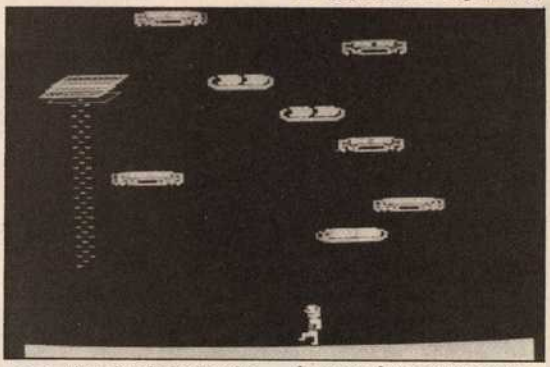
There are various permutations of play available with up to eight players including the computer taking part if you wish. You can practise individual events and, if appropriate and you have a disc, record your world record score.

There is even an opening ceremony in which a runner arrives to light the Olympic flame and white doves of peace are released — no sign of Ronald Reagan or a jetman though.

Ian Waltham

Psychedelic

Program *Sinbad* **Price** £7.95 **Micro** BBC B **Supplier** Virgin Games Ltd, Vernon Yard, 119 Portobello Road, London W11.



Quite what Sinbad and a cast of magic carpets are doing in space I cannot imagine, but there they are, and the scenario makes for an original game by Dennis Ibbotson. According to the cassette cover, he has only been programming for six months and hates computer magazines (whoops!).

It contains two different screens which alternate and become progressively harder during the game. The first has a number of furry rugs flying around the screen, and Sinbad has to climb on to his magic carpet and touch them as he flies past. A touch changes their colour, although they are still able to knock Sinbad off the carpet, and frequently do so. The aim is to touch them all in as short a time as possible.

When Sinbad has completed his psychedelic experience, the second screen appears — a 3D view of Sinbad flying through meteors. Sinbad's instant dyeing technique evidently doesn't extend to meteors, so he must avoid colliding with them. The length of time it took to clear the first screen determines how long the flight through the meteors will last.

The cover also promises a surprise reward at the end of the game, but that would be telling. The game is pleasant but unexciting.

Jan Watterson

Glued-on

Program *Poster Paster* **Micro** Commodore 64 **Price** £6.95 **Supplier** Task Set, 13 High Street, Bridlington, Yorks.

Despite having a hero named Bill Stickers — a bad enough pun to be truly offensive — Task Set's new game *Poster Paster* is pretty good.

The simple idea is to move a ladder about, collect glue, and put up posters avoiding a variety of completely unrelated but entertaining monsters. What makes the game is the realistic way the poster sections unfold to display various ludicrous adverts.

Beyond dodging monsters and positioning ladders there isn't much else to the game and it might get tedious after a while.

Ian Waltham

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The ABC trial

***Jeff Naylor** previews Acorn's new ABC range of business computers*

Acorn's entry into the business machine market—the Acorn Business Computer (ABC)—launched at last week's Personal Computer World Show understandably attracted a great deal of attention.

Seven machines and a terminal-type model were demonstrated, all broadly based around the BBC-with-second-processor technology. At the bottom of the range the machines are provided with a Z80 second processor running CP/M. Other options use the 16032 running Xenix and the 80286 giving the ABC IBM PC compatability.

So far, though, it is impossible to form a firm opinion about the ABC machines since Acorn is playing things close to its chest and has announced no details whatsoever of prices for the new range.

All the ABC models are based around the original BBC design (or Proton as it was called until the lucrative contract appeared). The machines come in two boxes, a main unit containing the discs, monitor, power supply and virtually all the electronics, and a separate keyboard. Whichever type of display—black and white or colour—the casing of the main unit appears to be identical.

It is quite large: the Apricot F1 and Macintosh look like half-scale models in comparison. Mounted on a plinth to raise it a few inches, the whole unit is supposed to tilt and swivel but when this was attempted on the pre-production machines it was not as easy as it looked. The ABC is not a light machine and only responded to brute force.

The disc drives are mounted beneath the screen. A Winchester hard disc presents you with a blank panel, broken only by a couple of LEDs. The floppy drives have a very solid lever for locking the discs in place. Acorn have taken great trouble in selecting a manufacturing source for these drives, and the type finally settled on have "passed all the tests with flying colours", to quote one of the designers. They are made by Teac, although nobody is supposed to know that.

The main circuit board for the ABC lies across the bottom of the case. The BBC circuit layout has been completely redesigned for the new series of machines, but the chips are the same. In terms of configuration, the ABC is a Model B BBC machine with Econet and disc interface. Compatibility was obviously the watch word of the design team. The new board has been designed to cope even with "dirty" programming tricks used by software authors on the BBC such as reconfiguring the display controller chip.

Where this compatibility may fail is with the disc operating system. It is no secret that the Acorn disc filing system is based around a controller chip that is now considered obsolete, even by its manufacturer. Consequently, the ABC computer is equipped with a new disc system which is bound to be an improvement, but may just cause the odd problem.

There are six, as opposed to five, sideways Rom sockets, and these are capable of taking the 16K Roms or Eproms used on the BBC. A quick modification allows them to accept 32K chips instead. The main, or mother, board is standard throughout the range, except that I was left with the impression that the 300 series machines may have some alterations. Whether this is to do with running Concurrent CP/M or for the operation of mouse and modem was not clear.

Green-screen display

Either side of the monitor chassis—inside the case—are two card-holding frames: the second-processer boards and other additions are housed here. Space has also been left inside the case for the additional electromagnetic screening that is required by American interference regulations. This may limit the size of boards that third-party manufacturers can use. Cards for things such as Ram discs can be quite large so they may have to be plugged into the 1MHz bus and sulk around behind the machine.

The display section and power supply are housed in a pivoted frame: with the cover removed it may be hinged up to make servicing and modifications easy. In addition, the computer can actually continue to run in this position as no jumper leads need to be disconnected, so you will have the chance to give yourself all the electric shocks you want.

Getting into the machine to work on it is something that has been well thought out: an Acorn designer claimed that he can get into the machine in 15 seconds.

The monochrome machines have a 12-inch green-screen display that is both clear and steady. The colour tubes (12 inch again) are described as hi-resolution and high contrast: the pictures they produce can only be described as excellent. Returning to the outside of the case, there are both RGB and composite video sockets lurking around the back. The monochrome models produce colour signals, so I expect that their RGB outputs will be welcome to those who want colour but can't afford a hard disc as well. The video signals are not buffered, so plugging a second RGB monitor into a colour model may interfere with the built-in screen's circuitry. With the monochrome models the same may happen with the composite video output, but in both cases it would not require a very complex add-on to overcome the problem.

The backs of all the machines have the same collection of input and output sockets. Prominent is the 1 MHz bus expansion connector. With this you may add external devices, such as your own hard disc drive. Econet comes as standard, as do serial and parallel ports and an analogue socket. A tape socket indicates that a cassette interface is still provided, despite the fact that all the models are equipped with discs. This is not surprising, considering the origins of the design and compatibility aspirations with the Beeb computer, but please take note, Sinclair Research.

In addition there is a power switch and keyboard connector. This last item is a locking "D"-type socket, so the keyboard should never come adrift accidentally.

Running between the main unit and the keyboard is a curly, 18-way wire. Acorn were pleased to find that British Telecom used such an item, and put it to good use. The extension signals to the keyboard are buffered, but otherwise they follow the same format as the Beeb. The keyboard itself contains only a little electronics. The

unit is slim and stylish and much thought has gone into the layout. The function keys are in a row along the top, but have been grouped in three blocks. It was thought that finding the right key would be made easier if they were grouped with gaps between F2 and 3 and F6 and 7.

BBC users will not find the cursor keys where they would expect, as they are grouped top right of the main Qwerty layout. Further right is a key-pad that not only contains numbers but also Plus, Minus, Divide and Multiply as well as an extra, double-sized return key. The keyboard gave a decidedly professional impression, and you get the same unit whatever model you buy.

A program break

There is no break key visible, a good idea for a computer that may spend little of its working life having programs written and debugged on it. If you peek at the back of the keyboard, however, a hole is revealed that fingers will have difficulty penetrating: poking a pencil in here will cause a break of the program (not the pencil). There is another switch behind the keyboard which can be used to toggle the way the machine operates. You can switch the second processer in and out (if fitted) and all that entails; if the Tube LED is not lit then you are left with a standard machine—however much you paid for it.

Having looked at the hardware components, let's now turn to the various options available. At the very bottom of the range is a machine that isn't really an ABC, but a terminal. At present it even has a 14 inch screen. Of interest to potential network customers, it is the least up-gradable of the range. Next comes the Personal Assistant. If you are considering buying a BBC machine with disc drive for word processing then hang on until the price of this model is announced—I am told that they will be comparable, and with the Personal Assistant you are getting a much better product. It will be capable of running any BBC or Electron software (given that a disc filing problem does not emerge). In addition to a double-sided, double-density disc drive capable of storing 670K, you also get *View*, Acorn's own word-processing package and *ViewSheet*, a spreadsheet. Both programs are in sideways Rom.

The other machines in the range can all be turned into this base model with the switch described earlier, although they will have better disc options and will not have the sideways Roms as standard.

The ABC 100 is the monochrome Z80 second-processor option with twin floppy drives (1480K total capacity). It uses the second-processer method as used on the Beeb, with the 6502 handling screen, keyboard, etc and the Z80 doing the clever stuff. The processers communicate via the same Tube interface as used on BBC. The ABC 110 is a 100 with a colour display and hard, 10 Mbyte, disc replacing one floppy. Both Z80 machines can handle CP/M and come with a full set of bundled software.

The ABC 200 series use the National Semiconductor 32016 chip as the second processer. This is an advanced chip-32 bits internally with 16-bit data and 24-bit address busses. The 200s are best described as technical work stations, as they support a wide range of languages including C and Pascal. Acorn hope to equip the colour and hard disc option, the ABC 210, with the Xenix operating system. The licences have yet to be obtained for some of the software.

Finally the 80286 second-processer of the ABC 300 and 310 models is compatible with the 8086 and 8088 CPUs used by the IBM PC and its various clones. Proudly described as "not a PC compatible machine, a PC eater", the 300s are the executive machines, with a Concurrent (ie, multi-tasking) operating system and a software user interface called the *Desk Top Manager*. The front end of the Apple Liza and Macintosh are the obvious inspirations for the Desk Top Manager Graphic representation of sheets of paper overlapping on a desk, a mouse pointing at icons, and pull-down menus.

Whichever of the popular operating systems you may already be using, the 300s should cope: they can read virtually any disc format, although this may require some programming skills. The price of the 300s is claimed to under-cut the cost of equivalent IBM pc systems at around £3,500.

Pull-down menus

Perhaps the most interesting of the ideas behind the ABC is the possibility of upgrading from the lower end of the range to a top end machine. It should also be possible to leave your old second processer in place when adding the next one up the range.

This would allow, for example, the CP/M Z80 option to remain in place when upgrading to the 200 specification.

The ABC range has been under development for about a year now and field trials began in May. The computers on display at the show were pre-production models, but production is due to start in November with deliveries in January.

Although Acorn has done a good deal of market research, it is not to late for dealer and public reaction to modify the final packages. It is the dealers who will have the most say in what ends up in the showrooms.

First impressions of the machines are favourable. It is not exactly an elegant machine, physically, but the power of twin processers cannot be dismissed. Until prices are known, though, it is difficult to compare the range with other products.

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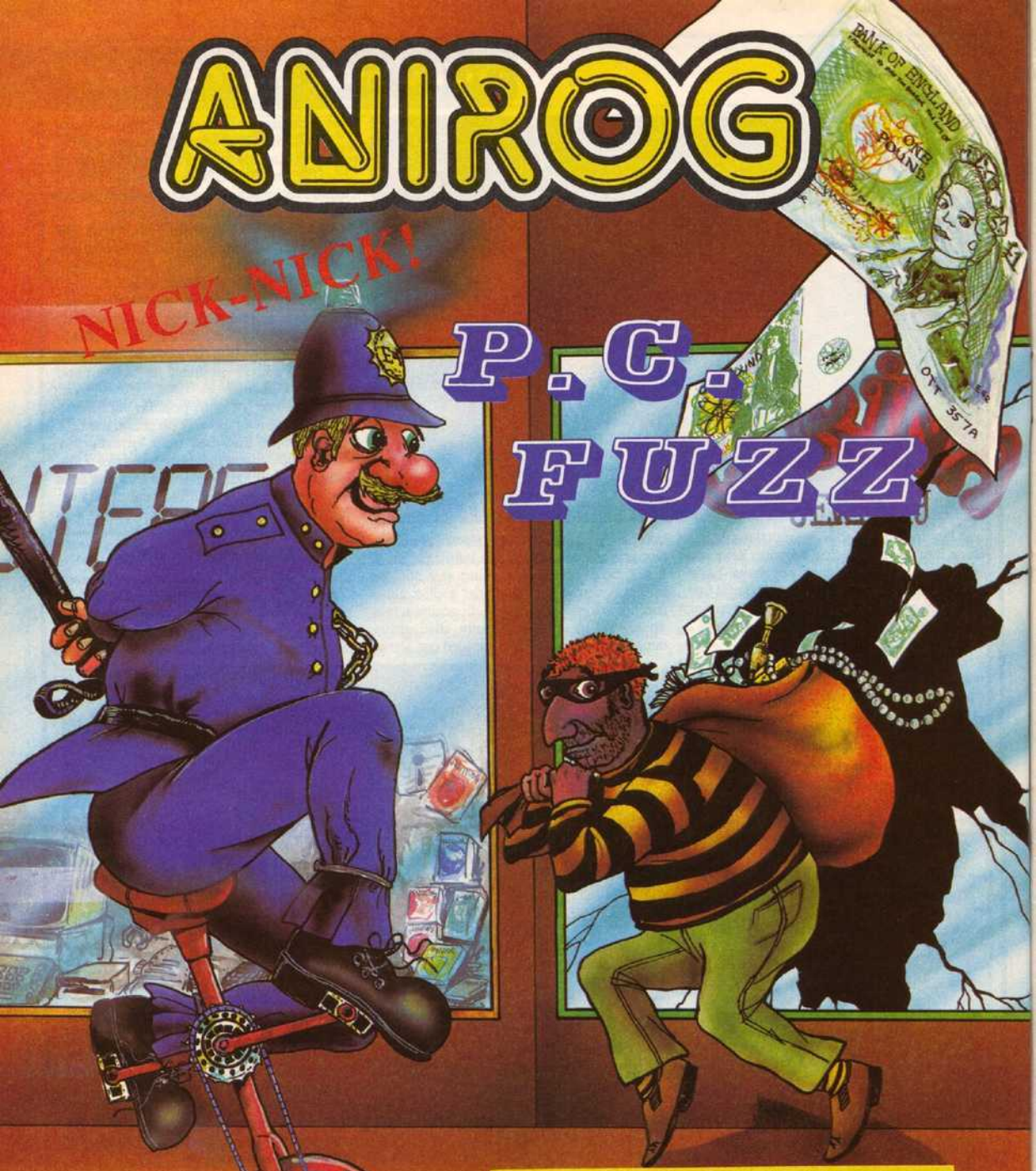

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Pocket programs

Hardware *Psion Organiser* **Price** £99.95 **Supplier** Psion 22 Dorset Square, London NW1 1YP.

Even with the gilt now rapidly wearing off the home computer gingerbread, there still appears, once in a longish while, a product which bears the stamp of an original and very bright idea. Into that category comes the first piece of hardware produced by software company Psion. After several weeks of using the Psion Organiser I'm no longer breathless with admiration, but I am still a fan.

This machine makes an ambitious advertising claim to be "the world's first practical pocket computer", a slogan brazen enough to make several other manufacturers, not least Casio and Epson, foam at the mouth. The claim stems from the fact that with the Organiser, unlike any of the others so far on the market, large amounts (up to 16K in each of two "drives" or cartridge slots) of non-volatile memory are available for addresses and other reference data, including information for use with special "program packs" which come together with Psion's own programming language.

For the basic £99.95 you get the computer, complete with built-in operating system, and 14K of RAM, 16 character scrolling LCD display, alpha-numeric keyboard with a sophisticated calculator (including a built-in clock) two cartridges including a blank 8K unit for data.

The blank cartridges, called "datapaks" coming in 8K or 16K form, are *Eproms*, Information saved to them is thus preserved even when the machine is switched off. Equally it has to be remembered that once data has been saved, using the special "save" key, that area of memory is committed unless the entire cartridge is reformatted.

The Organiser has a built-in database function, using the "find" key which will find any existing entries containing a specified string of characters. With a 16K *Eprom* full of information to sort through, I found the longest wait was about five seconds, and retrieval usually came very much faster. The scrolling screen, which can move forwards or back and, when using the "finance" pack, up and down as well, makes the most of the limited display.

Popl, standing for Psion Organiser Programming Language, bears some resemblance to a drastically curtailed version of BBC Basic. There are programs of up to 200 bytes. Numeric variables global and local are catered for as is *Goto* and a limited IF facility as well as a *Loop* command. The Finance Pack has built-in procedures for advanced mathematical and scientific calculations as well as more specialised tasks.

In general the Organiser is a user-friendly machine with the number of built-in commands simple enough to grasp and easily accessible. But, just as many of the advantages of the machine stem from its use of *Eproms*, so do the major drawbacks. I discovered these after I saved information about a company to the blank datapak and, a day later, remembered that there was another office whose number I was also likely to need. But, once an entry has been saved, there is no way of adding to it without rewriting the whole entry and loosing the memory space of the original.

The "find" key will default to looking at cartridge 1 unless "2" is specified, and copying data from one datapak to the other is straightforward using the "save" key, if sometimes a little laborious.

The three 16K program packs, for maths, science and finance, cost £29.95 apiece and more are being developed, and there will also be a £39.95 RS232 interface to link the Organiser with a modem and transfer information to other computers or to connect it to a suitable printer.

All in all, a machine which, at the price, should find instant appeal in the executive market and, depending on the packs developed, could soon develop a wider appeal. When, that is, one ludicrous and glaring fault has been corrected. You won't believe it but, the damn clock loses up to 20 minutes per day.

Barbara Conway

A Sharpe

Hardware/Program *Musicom ML-10 Centronics Interface/Musicom software* **Micro** Spectrum plus Casio MT 200 music keyboard **Price** £43 (for the ML-10 unit) £9.95 (for the music software) **Supplier** Micro Musical, 37 Wood Lane, Shilton, Coventry CV7 9LA.

A while back *PCW* looked at the Casio MT200 — a portable keyboard that could be linked with any micro that had, or could be fitted with, Centronics interface.

At the time all there was by way of software was whatever you could manage to create yourself using the grotty manual that came with the Casio PA 1 interface.

Micro Musical is a company that specialises in developing, with both hardware and software, computer-music links and it is from them that the first sensible software for the MT 200 comes.

Its *Musicom* (minus points for naff name, Micro Musical) program enables you to enter, edit, repeat, and transpose music in up to eight parts and switch from any of the MT200's six rhythms and eight tone settings.

The notation for the music is not conventional dots and staves — although there is a promise of a music stave version in a couple of months). Instead, notes are referred to by letter and a number which determines which octave they fall in, eg, A2 is the lowest A the Casio can play. Micro Musical have replaced the ludicrous Casio system of using upper and lower-case letters for sharps and flats with a far more sensible + or −. For example, +A2 is A sharp.

However, it doesn't end there. If you use appropriate note values all the music can be automatically timed to the 'clock' that drives the rhythm unit — so you can't fail to be in time even if, as often happens, the beat doesn't quite fall where you thought.

It's easy to get the program to do something simple but if you want to get into some really nifty funky stuff using the disco setting you will have to do quite a bit of experimenting with shortened notes and different rest lengths.

The only real problem with the package is that it is designed to work with a special Centonics interface Micro Musical have designed for the Spectrum called the ML 10 which cannot be used for ordinary printing purposes. Doubtless a lot of people out there will already have a Centronics interface and won't want to buy another.

The software may not work quite as straightforwardly with your particular interface, although Micro Musical are pretty helpful at sorting out such problems.

Graham Taylor

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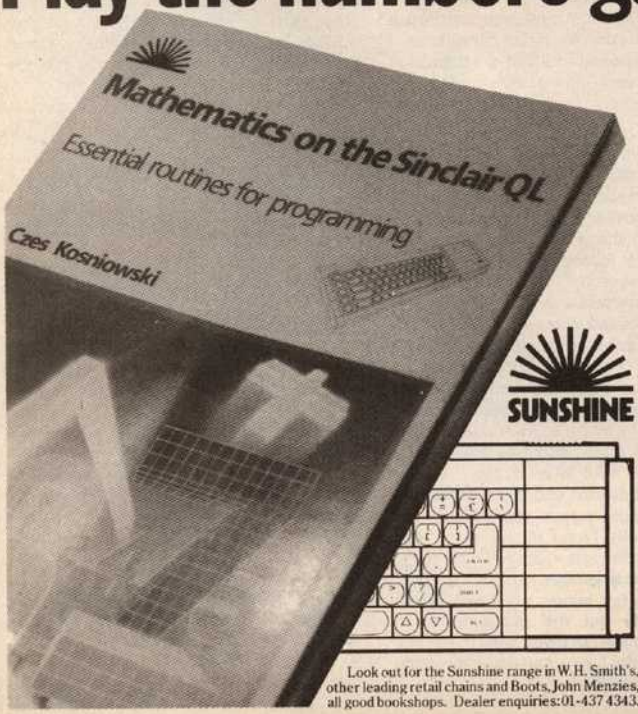

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Expand your attributes

Two new keywords for Interface 1 by **B J Lowry**

Any Spectrum Owner with Interface One will probably be aware of the Basic Extension facility the extra system variable *Vector* (Address 23735 & Address 23736) offers. Most Spectrum owners will also be aware of the lack of Basic commands to manipulate the attribute file, which at present can only be accessed via *Pokes* (hardly an aid to debugging) or via a *Print* statement, which can be inconvenient.

The following machine code program is a way of using Basic Extension to give a greater flexibility when manipulating the attribute file from Basic. The program defines two new Basic keywords:

a) ATTR * *I,P,C,L*

Where: *I Ink* (In the range 0-7)
P Paper (In the range 0-7)
C Column (In the range 0-31)
L Line (In the range 0-23)

b) ATTR @ *L,C,N,F,I,P*

Where: *L Start line* (In the range 0-23)
C Start column (In the range 0-31)
N No of Characters per line (In the range 1-32)
F No of Lines duration (In the range 1-24)
I Ink (Range as before)
P Paper (Range as before)

Keyword *a* will allow the user to specify the ink and paper of any screen position (including the bottom status lines), without destroying anything printed there previously, by specifying the position in column/line co-ordinates.

Keyword *b* allows the user to define a rectangle of colour, of width *N* and length *F* that begins on Line *L* at column *C*, without destroying anything printed previously.

Although both new statements only act on the ink and paper, the user can incorporate *flash* and *bright*. This is done by preceding the new statement with a line that sets the *flash/bright* on, and then immediately after the new statement inserting a line that sets *flash/bright* off. The user is able to do this because both commands access the system variable *attr p* (address 23693) and pick up the flash and bright bits.

The machine code is 413 bytes long, and I have located it above Ramtop at starting address of FD5C (hex), 64860 (dec). For those of you without an Assembler, I have included a decimal dump of the code and a small Basic program to load this routine.

Enter the Basic loader and run it. The computer will ask you to input each number from the dump from left to right, eg, starting with 215 then 24 then 0 then 254 then 171. After five numbers the computer will display the sum (in the case of the first line 644). If the number agrees with the sum for that line on the printout, the line is ok and you can enter the next line. After entering the code it should be saved before testing. Save as: *Save* "Name" *Code* 64860,413. After saving the code, *New* the computer and enter Lines 10 and 11 of the example program. *Run* these lines, *Load* back the code previously saved, then enter the rest of the example program. When entered, the program can be run by typing *Goto* 14, and pressing *Enter*.

One thing must be noted when using the new commands. Do not forget to change the system variable vector before trying to use them. Simply *Poke* 23735,92 and *Poke* 23736,253 at the beginning of any program that uses the commands, and don't forget to load the code.

```
00000 ; Zeus Assembler listing
00001 ;
00002 ; DATE: 17/06/84
00003 ;
00004 ;      Extending BASIC
00005 ;      ===============
00006 ;
00007 ;  (C) 1984 BJ LOWRY
00008 ;
00009 ;  ATTR*I,P,C,L
00010 ;
00011 ;  ATTR@L,C,N,F,I,P
00012 ;
00013       ORG #FD5C
00014 SYN RST 16    ;Page ROM
00015     DEFW #0018 ;Get Char
00016       CP 171   ;is it ATTR
00017       JP Z,AT5 ;Yes,Jump
00018       JP #01F1 ;No,Error!
00019 AT5 RST 16    ;Page ROM
00020     DEFW #0020 ;Next Char
00021       CP 42    ;is it '*'?
00022       JP NZ,NXT;No,Try '@'
00023       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00024     DEFW #0020 ;Next Char
00025     RST 16     ;Page ROM
00026     DEFW #1C82 ;Get LINE
00027       CP 44    ;Comma?
00028       JR Z,SN1 ;Yes,Jump
00029 ER2 RST 32     ;NO,Error!
00030     DEFB 0     ;Nonsense in
00031                ;Basic-ERROR
00032 SN1 RST 16     ;Page ROM
00033     DEFW #0020 ;Next Char
00034       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00035     DEFW #1C82 ;Get COLUMN
00036       CP 44    ;Comma?
00037       JR NZ,ER2;No,Error
00038 RST 16  ;Page ROM
00039     DEFW #0020 ;Next Char
00040       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00041     DEFW #1C82 ;Get PAPER
00042       CP 44    ;Comma?
00043       JR NZ,ER2;No,Error2!
00044       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00045     DEFW #0020 ;Next Char
00046       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00047     DEFW #1C82 ;Get INK
00048     CALL #0587 ;Exit in
00049                ;Syntax Time
00050 ;
00051 ;  Run-time Module
00052 ;
00053 ;
00054 ;
00055 ERN EQU #3600
00056 POS   RST 16   ;Page ROM
00057       DEFW #1E94 ;Get Line n
00058         CP 24    ;Is it in
00059         JR NC,ER3;Range?
00060         LD BC,31 ;Initialise
00061         LD DE,0  ;    the
00062         LD HL,0  ;Registers!
00063         LD E,A   ;Save Line
00064         PUSH DE  ;& incrm'nt
00065         PUSH BC  ;before ROM
00066         RST 18   ;Page ROM
00067       DEFW #1E94 ;Get Column
00068         CP 32    ;Is it in
00069         JR NC,ER3;Range?
00070         POP BC   ;Restore
00071         POP DE   ;Line/incr
00072         LD D,A   ;SaveColumn
00073     LD HL,23528  ;ATR'base
00074         LD A,0   ;ZERO:seCNT
00075 CALC   CP E      ;=Line n ?
00076         JR Z,ENDC;Yes,Jump
00077         INC A    ;CNT=CNT+1
00078         ADC HL,BC;Add Offset
00079         JR CALC  ;RoundAgain
00080 ENDC  LD C,D     ;COL Offset
00081       LD B,0
00082       ADC HL,BC;Add it in
00083 ;
00084 ;Registers HL contain the
00085 ;address of the attribute
00086 ;byte to be changed
00087 ;
00088 ;Now for PAPER & INK :-
00089 ;
00090 COL5 PUSH HL   ;Save Addr
00091       RST 18   ;Page ROM
00092     DEFW #1E94 ;Get Paper
00093       CP 8     ;Is it in
00094       JR NC,ER4;Range?
00095       LD DE,0  ;ZERO:se DE
00096       LD D,A   ;Save Paper
00097       PUSH DE  ;& Addr
00098       PUSH HL  ;before ROM
00099       RST 16   ;Page ROM
00100     DEFW #1E94 ;Get Ink
00101       CP 8     ;Is it in
00102       JR NC,ER4;Range?
00103       POP HL   ;Restore
00104       POP DE   ;Paper/Addr
00105       LD E,A   ;Save Ink
00106       LD BC,8  ;Initialise
00107       LD HL,0  ;Registers
00108       LD A,0   ;  to ZERO
00109 SUM   LD A,D    ;Get PAPER
00110       RLCA     ;Shift the
00111       RLCA     ;  Bits to
00112       RLCA     ;Get P+8
00113       ADD A,E  ;Add in INK
00114       LD HL,23693 ;Add in
00115       LD E,A      ;any
00116       LD A,(HL)   ;Bright
00117       AND #C0     ;& Flash
00118       OR E        ;Bits
00119       POP HL   ;Get AtrAdr
00120       LD (HL),A;Alter Attr
00121       JP #05C1 ;Finish
00122 ;
00123 ;
00124 ER3 LD (IY+ERN),#0A
00125       RST 40
00126 ;
00127 ;
00128 ER4 LD (IY+ERN),#13
```

```
00129          RST 40
00130 ;
00131  NXT CP 64       ;Is it '@'
00132       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00133       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00134     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00135       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00136     DEFW #1C82    ;StartLINE
00137       CP 44       ;Comma?
00138       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00139       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00140     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00141       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00142     DEFW #1C82    ;Start COL
00143       CP 44       ;Comma?
00144       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00145       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00146     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00147       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00148     DEFW #1C82    ;N/o Chars
00149       CP 44       ;Comma?
00150       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00151       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00152     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00153       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00154     DEFW #1C82    ;EndLINE
00155       CP 44       ;Comma?
00156       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00157       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00158     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00159       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00160     DEFW #1C82    ;INK
00161       CP 44       ;Comma?
00162       JP NZ,ER2   ;No,Error2
00163       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00164     DEFW #0020    ;Next Char
00165       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00166     DEFW #1C82    ;PAPER
00167     CALL #0687    ;SyntaxEND

00168 PAS RST 16        ;Page ROM
00169     DEFW #1E94    ;Get PAPER
00170     CP 8          ;In range?
00171     JR NC,ER4     ;No,Error
00172     LD B,A        ;Store it
00173     PUSH BC       ;Save it
00174       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00175     DEFW #1E94    ;Get INK
00176     CP 8          ;In range?
00177     JR NC,ER4     ;No,Error
00178     POP BC        ;Get PAPER
00179     LD C,A        ;Save INK
00180     PUSH BC       ;and PAPER
00181       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00182     DEFW #1E94    ;ENDLINE
00183     CP 25         ;In range?
00184     JR NC,ER3     ;No,Error
00185     LD D,A        ;Store it
00186     PUSH DE       ;Save it
00187       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00188     DEFW #1E94    ;N/o CHARS
00189     CP 33         ;In range?
00190     JR NC,ER3     ;No,Error
00191     POP DE        ;ENDLINE
00192     LD E,A        ;Save EL &
00193     PUSH DE       ;N/o CHARS
00194       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00195     DEFW #1E94    ;StartCOL
00196     CP 32         ;In range?
00197     JR NC,ER3     ;No,Error
00198     LD H,A        ;Store it
00199     PUSH HL       ;Save it
00200       RST 16      ;Page ROM
00201     DEFW #1E94    ;StartLINE
00202     CP 24         ;In range?
00203     JP NC,ER3     ;No,Error
00204     POP HL        ;StartCOL
00205     LD L,A        ;Save SL
00206       POP DE
00207       POP BC
00208 ;
00209 ;NOW THE REGISTERS CONTAIN
00210 ; H = Start Column
00211 ; L = Start Line
00212 ; D = End Line
00213 ; E = Number of Chars
00214 ; B = Paper
00215 ; C = Ink
00216 ;
00217       CALL CERRS  ;ERRcheck
00218       PUSH BC     ;Calculate
00219       PUSH DE     ;the ATTR
00220       LD BC,31    ;start
00221       EX DE,HL    ;Address
00222       LD HL,22528
00223       LD A,0
00224 CLC  CP E
00225       JR Z,EC1
00226       INC A
00227       ADC HL,BC
00228       JR CLC
00229 EC1  LD E,D
00230       LD D,0
00231       ADC HL,DE
00232 ;
00233 ;HL = ATTR Start Addr
00234 ;
00235       POP DE
00236       POP BC
00237       PUSH DE
00238       PUSH HL
00239       LD A,B
00240       RLCA
00241       RLCA
00242       RLCA
00243       ADD A,C
00244       LD E,A
00245       LD A,(23693)
00246       AND #C0
00247       OR E
00248       LD (23695),A
00249 ;
00250 ; System Variable ATTR T
00251 ; contains New ATTR
00252 ;
00253       POP HL
00254       POP DE
00255       PUSH HL
00256       PUSH DE
00257       LD B,1
00258       LD C,0
00259       POP DE
00260       POP HL
00261 ;
00262 ; HL = BASE ADDRESS
00263 ; BC = END ADDRESS
00264 ;  E = N/o CHARS
00265 ;
00266       LD D,1
00267 AGN  LD A,(23695)
00268       LD (HL),A
00269       LD A,D
00270       CP E
00271       JR Z,ELN
00272       INC HL
00273       INC D
00274       JR AGN
00275 ELN  LD A,B
00276       CP C
00277       JR Z,FIN
00278       LD D,1
00279       PUSH DE
00280       LD D,0
00281       LD E,32
00282       ADC HL,DE
00283       POP DE
00284       PUSH DE
00285       LD D,0
00286       SBC HL,DE
00287       POP DE
00288       INC B
00289       JR AGN
00290 FIN  JP #85C1
00291 CERRS PUSH DE
00292       PUSH BC
00293       PUSH HL
00294       PUSH AF
00295       LD A,H
00296       ADC A,E
00297       CP 34
00298       JP NC,ER3
00299       LD A,L
00300       ADD A,D
00301       CP 25
00302       JP NC,ER3
00303       POP AF
00304       POP HL
00305       POP BC
00306       POP DE
00307       RET
```

```
  1 REM example program
  2 REM using the new commands
  3 REM
 10 CLEAR 64859
 11 POKE 23735,92: POKE 23736,2
53
 12 REM run above before
      entering the rest
 13 REM
 14 PRINT AT 7,7;"%"
 15 PRINT AT 1,0;"press a key";
PAUSE 0
 16 ATTR =5,5,7,7
 17 PRINT "ATTR=";
 18 PAUSE 0: CLS
 20 PRINT AT 11,3;"a block of c
olour": PRINT AT 1,0;"press a ke
y": PAUSE 0
 21 ATTR =10,2,22,7,2,1
 22 PRINT "ATTR=";
 23 PAUSE 0: CLS : PRINT AT 12,
0;"with FLASH & BRIGHT": PAUSE 0
 24 FLASH 1: BRIGHT 1
 25 ATTR =12,0,32,1,2,7
 26 FLASH 0: BRIGHT 0
 27 STOP
```

```
  1 REM BASIC LOADER
  2 REM
 10 CLEAR 64859: LET B=64859
 20 DIM A(5)
100 LET c=1
110 INPUT "Byte>>";a
111 IF A<0 OR A>255 THEN PRINT
=0;AT 0,5;"BAD BYTE!-ENTER AGAIN
": BEEP .5,-24: PAUSE 50: GO TO
110
112 LET A(C)=A
113 PRINT A
114 LET C=C+1
115 IF C=5 THEN LET C=1: GO SUB
200
120 IF B)=B+415 THEN GO TO 1000
122 GO TO 110
200 LET SUM=0: FOR X=1 TO 5
210 LET SUM=SUM+A(X): NEXT X
211 PRINT "SUM= ";SUM ;"-IF OK
PRESS 0,IF NOT,1"
212 PAUSE 0
213 IF INKEY$="0" THEN GO SUB 3
00
214 IF INKEY$="1" THEN PRINT =0
;AT 0,0;"CANCELLED LAST LINE,ENT
ER AGAIN": BEEP .5,-24: PAUSE 50
```

Continued over the page

```
: RETURN
215 RETURN
300 FOR X=1 TO 5: POKE B+X,A(X)
: NEXT X: LET B=B+5: PRINT "NEXT
LINE": RETURN
1000 CLS : PRINT " ALL THE MACH
INE CODE HAS BEEN ENTERED,PLEAS
E SAVE BEFORE RUN-NING"
1001 PRINT : PRINT "SAVE A5 :";
PRINT "SAVE "+CHR$ 34+"NAME"+CHR
$ 34+"CODE 64660,413"
1002 STOP
```

****DECIMAL DUMP****

215	24	0	254	171	SUM	554	121	253	215	32	0	SUM	621
202	103	253	195	241	SUM	994	215	130	28	254	44	SUM	671
1	215	32	0	254	SUM	502	194	121	254	215	32	SUM	815
42	194	3	254	215	SUM	708	0	215	130	28	254	SUM	627
32	0	215	130	26	SUM	405	44	194	121	254	215	SUM	828
254	44	40	2	231	SUM	571	32	0	215	130	28	SUM	405
0	215	32	0	215	SUM	452	254	44	194	121	254	SUM	867
130	28	254	44	32	SUM	488	215	32	0	215	130	SUM	592
244	215	32	0	215	SUM	706	28	254	44	194	121	SUM	641
130	28	254	44	32	SUM	488	254	215	32	0	215	SUM	716
234	215	32	0	215	SUM	696	130	28	254	44	194	SUM	650
130	28	205	183	5	SUM	551	121	254	215	32	0	SUM	622
215	148	30	254	24	SUM	671	215	130	28	205	183	SUM	761
48	90	1	31	0	SUM	170	5	215	148	30	254	SUM	652
17	0	0	33	0	SUM	50	6	48	175	71	197	SUM	499
0	95	213	197	215	SUM	720	215	148	30	254	8	SUM	655
148	30	254	32	48	SUM	512	48	166	193	79	197	SUM	683
71	193	209	87	33	SUM	593	215	148	30	254	25	SUM	672
0	88	62	0	187	SUM	337	48	151	87	213	215	SUM	714
40	5	60	237	74	SUM	416	148	30	254	33	48	SUM	513
24	248	74	6	0	SUM	352	142	209	95	213	215	SUM	874
237	74	229	215	148	SUM	903	148	30	254	32	48	SUM	512
30	254	8	48	47	SUM	387	132	103	229	215	148	SUM	827
17	88	0	87	213	SUM	317	30	254	24	210	157	SUM	675
229	215	148	30	254	SUM	875	125	225	111	209	193	SUM	653
8	48	34	225	209	SUM	524	205	226	254	197	213	SUM	1895
95	1	0	0	33	SUM	129	1	31	0	235	33	SUM	300
0	0	62	0	122	SUM	184	0	88	62	0	187	SUM	337
7	0	7	131	33	SUM	185	40	5	60	237	74	SUM	416
141	92	95	126	230	SUM	684	24	248	90	22	0	SUM	384
192	179	225	119	195	SUM	910	237	90	209	193	213	SUM	942
193	5	253	54	0	SUM	505	229	120	7	7	7	SUM	370
10	239	253	54	0	SUM	556	129	95	58	141	92	SUM	515
19	239	254	64	194	SUM	770	230	192	179	58	143	SUM	794
							92	225	209	229	213	SUM	968
							6	1	74	209	225	SUM	515
							22	1	58	143	92	SUM	316
							119	122	187	40	4	SUM	472
							35	20	24	244	120	SUM	443
							185	40	19	82	1	SUM	267
							213	22	0	58	32	SUM	297
							237	90	209	213	22	SUM	771
							0	237	82	209	4	SUM	532
							24	221	195	193	5	SUM	638
							213	197	229	245	124	SUM	1008
							139	254	34	210	249	SUM	886
							253	125	130	254	25	SUM	787
							210	249	253	241	225	SUM	1178
							193	209	201	0	0	SUM	803

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The storylines for "Eureka!" are by Ian Livingstone, whose "Fighting Fantasy" books have sold over 2,000,000 copies. He's dreamed up some rather nasty tricks and twists for you in this Epic, because he has also devised the cryptic clues and conundrums in the booklet that goes with the program. He's the one who knows the answers.

"Eureka!" was programmed by Andromeda teams led by Hungarians Donát Kiss and András Császár. It took the equivalent of 5 YEARS to create, and the skills of 4 graphic artists, 2 musicians and a professor of logic too. We told them to stretch the hardware's capabilities, and make sure you were kept awake for hours!! They've done it...

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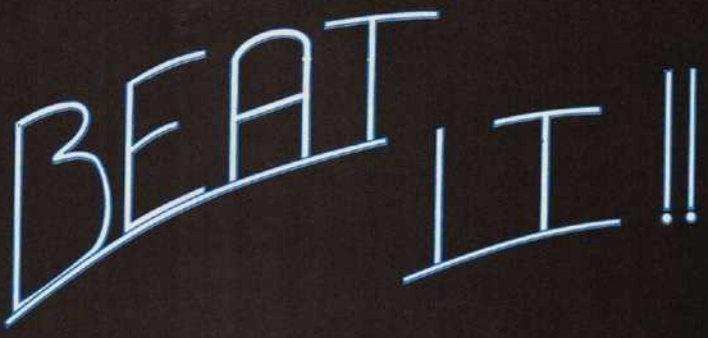

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Fans for the memory

***Graham Paterson** shows you how to get things moving on the Amstrad CPC 464*

This program demonstrates how the Amstrad can use *Ink* statements to obtain animation in a similar way as that on the BBC machine.

I have used Mode 0 to obtain the maximum number of *inks*, although only seven colours are used.

The overall routine draws three fans, two of which are identical in colour. Then all the *Ink* statements are altered in sequence to obtain the desired effect of animation.

Program Notes

20-70	Sets the origin of graphics cursor and all delays, counters and ink colour variables
80	Print title
90-100	Assigns ink colours for starting
110-320	Draws the Fan using different inks and colours for a particular section of the Fan
330	Moves to counter
340-370	Assigns alternate inks with respective colours
400-410	Checks counter
420-440	Depending on counter, changes graphics cursor position, the *Ink* number being used and its colours
460-520	Changes all the *Ink* statements to sequential colours using for next loop to slow speed down. Creates the animation
530-560	Sound routine for fan movement

It should be noted that this program was originally developed from one that displayed cylinders. This may be observed if the *Draw* command in Line 140 is change to *Plot* and the *Rem* removed in Line 150.

```
10 REM:ANIMATED FANS
20 x=320:y=200
30 z=200:t=0:w=90:s=150
40 l=35:a=1:b=2:c=3:d=4:e=7:v=24:g=20:h=
0
50 MODE 0
60 BORDER 0:INK 0,0
70 CLS
80 LOCATE 4,1:PRINT"AMSTRAD FANS"
90 f=a:i=e
100 INK f,i
110 FOR p=1 TO 360
120 DEG
130 MOVE x,y
140 DRAW x+z*COS(p),y+l*SIN(p),f
150 REM:DRAWR 0,s,f
160 IF p>22.5 THEN GOSUB 350
170 IF p>45 THEN GOSUB 360
180 IF p>67.5 THEN GOSUB 370
190 IF p>90 THEN GOSUB 340
200 IF p>112.5 THEN GOSUB 350
210 IF p>135 THEN GOSUB 360
220 IF p>157.5 THEN GOSUB 370
230 IF p>180 THEN GOSUB 340
240 IF p>202.5 THEN GOSUB 350
250 IF p>225 THEN GOSUB 360
260 IF p>247.5 THEN GOSUB 370
270 IF p>270 THEN GOSUB 340
280 IF p>292.5 THEN GOSUB 350
290 IF p>315 THEN GOSUB 360
300 IF p>337.5 THEN GOSUB 370
310 INK f,i
320 NEXT p
330 GOTO 380
340 f=a:i=e:RETURN
350 f=b:i=v:RETURN
360 f=c:i=g:RETURN
370 f=d:i=h:RETURN
380 REM
390 t=t+1
400 IF t=2 THEN GOTO 430
410 IF t=3 THEN GOTO 440
420 x=120:y=300:s=50:z=50:l=25:a=5:b=6:c
=7:d=8:e=26:v=11:g=6:v=a:i=e:GOTO 90
430 x=500:y=300:l=75:GOTO 90
440 a=1:b=2:c=3:d=4:e=5:v=6:g=7:h=8
450 EVERY 5 GOSUB 540
460 INK a,24:INK b,7:INK c,0:INK d,20:IN
K e,0:INK v,26:INK g,11:INK h,6
470 FOR q=1 TO w:NEXT
480 INK a,20:INK b,0:INK c,7:INK d,24:IN
K e,6:INK v,0:INK g,26:INK h,11
490 FOR q=1 TO w:NEXT
500 INK a,0:INK b,7:INK c,24:INK d,20:IN
K e,11:INK v,6:INK g,0:INK h,26
510 FOR q=1 TO w:NEXT
520 INK a,7:INK b,24:INK c,20:INK d,0:IN
K e,26:INK v,11:INK g,6:INK h,0
530 FOR q=1 TO w:NEXT: GOTO 460
540 ENV 1,3,-2,85
550 ENT 1,5,-1,51
560 SOUND 1,150,5,11,1,1,5
570 RETURN
```

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This program allows the user to choose a character he or she wants to define, then presents a blow-up of this character, as well as the actual size while defining. This is very useful when designing gothic or modern character sets.

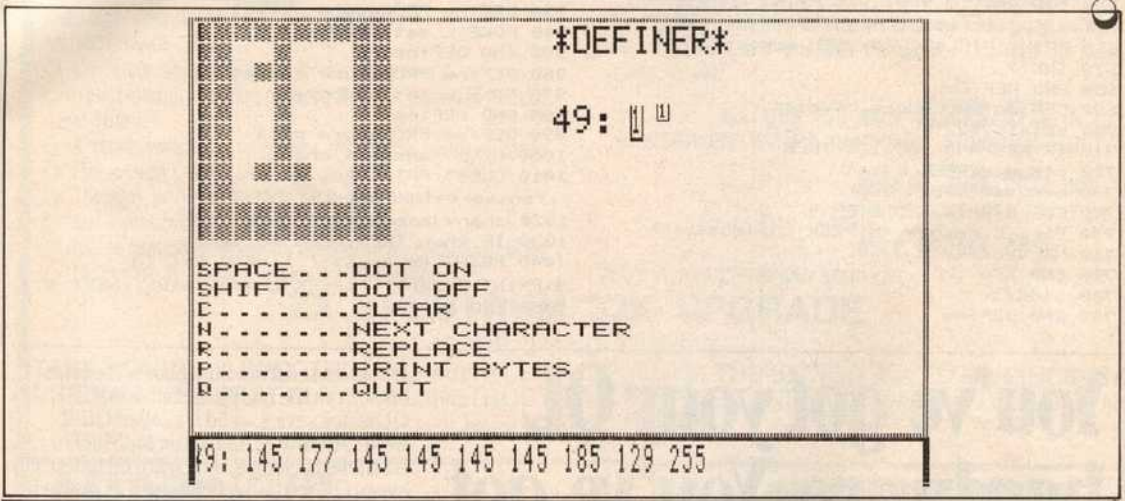
It is quite simple to operate. When the code of the character to be defined is input, the character size must be entered, *CSize* ?,0. This can be in the range nought to three. This is necessary because the QL uses a different range of pixels in each character row, depending on the pre-set character size. For instance, character size one gives the maximum 8 pixels across, and character size three gives 5 pixels.

When these graphics are used in your own programs, you must use the *CSize* command with the character size (which you entered when defining the character) as its first argument, eg, *CSize* 1,0 or *CSize* 1,1. Failure to do this may cause odd things to happen. After this, the user can experiment with the character definition on the blow-up grid.

Commands

Space-bar: light pixel at cursor position
Shift: remove pixel at cursor position
C: clear grid
N: next character definition
R: replace old character definition
P: print out definition bytes
Q: leave program

If space has already been reserved on the QL (*Respr*(100)... etc), I recommend the QL is reset before running *Definer*.




```
1 REMark : QL Graphics Definer
2 REMark : by Richard Snowdon (*SnowSoft*)
100 WINDOW #1,450,210,33,6:PAPER 0
110 WINDOW #0,450,40,33,216:PAPER #2,0
120 MODE 4:SCALE 256,0,0:BORDER
2,175:BORDER #0,2,2
130 moveset
140 ask
150 initiate
160 setup
170 display
180 newset
190 start
200 STOP
210 DEFine PROCedure initiate
220 CSIZE 2,0
230 DIM pix(9,8)
240 FOR f=1 TO 9
250 FOR e=1 TO 8
260 pix(f,e-(size>1))=((PEEK(charbase+f)
&&(2^(8-e)))=0)*32
270 NEXT e:NEXT f
280 x=1:y=1
290 END DEFine
300 DEFine PROCedure display
310 FOR f=1 TO 9
320 FOR e=1 TO across
330 AT f,e:PRINT CHR$(pix(f,e))
340 NEXT e:NEXT f
350 END DEFine
360 DEFine PROCedure start
370 REPeat mainloop
380 k=KEYROW(1)
390 AT y,x:PRINT CHR$(pix(y,x))
400 IF KEYROW(6)&&8 THEN CSIZE size,1:STOP
410 IF KEYROW(2)&&8 THEN
420 FOR f=1 TO 9:FOR e=1 TO 8:pix(f,e)=32:
NEXT e:POKE charbase+f,0:NEXT f:display
430 END IF
440 IF k&&2 AND x>1 THEN x=x-1
450 IF KEYROW(5)&&16 THEN
460 FOR replace=1 TO 9:POKE charbase+
replace,PEEK(oldbase+10+(a-32)*9+replace):N
EXT replace:initiate:display
470 END IF
480 IF k&&16 AND x<across THEN x=x+1
490 IF k&&4 AND y>1 THEN y=y-1
500 IF k&&128 AND y<9 THEN y=y+1
510 IF KEYROW(7)&&1 AND pix(y,x)=0 THEN
pix(y,x)=32:POKE charbase+y,(PEEK(charba
se+y))^^2^(8-x-(size>1))
520 AT 4,22:CSIZE size,1:PRINT CHR$(a);' ';
:CSIZE size,0:PRINT CHR$(a):CSIZE 2,0
530 IF k&&64 AND pix(y,x)=32 THEN pix(y,x)
=0:POKE charbase+y,(PEEK(charbase+y))!
!2^(8-x-(size>1))
```

Continued over the page

```
540 IF KEYROW(7)&&64 THEN RUN
550 IF KEYROW(4)&&32 THEN prit
560 AT y,x:PRINT CHR$(32+(pix(y,x)>0)*255)
570 END REPeat mainloop
580 DEFine PROCedure setup
590 CLS
600 CSIZE 2,1:AT 0,18:PRINT "*DEFINER*":AT
2,18:PRINT a;':':CSIZE 2,0
610 AT 12,0:PRINT "SPACE...DOT ON"\"SHIFT.
..DOT OFF"\"C.......CLEAR"\"N.......NE
XT CHARACTER"\"R.......REPLACE"\"P.......
PRINT BYTES"\"Q.......QUIT"
620 INK 2:CSIZE #0,1,1
630 across=8-2*(size=0)-3*(size>1)
640 AT 0,0:PRINT FILL$(CHR$(255),across+2)
650 FOR y=1 TO 9:AT y,0:PRINT CHR$(255);
FILL$(" ",across);CHR$(255)
660 PRINT FILL$(CHR$(255),across+2)
670 INK 7
680 END DEFine
690 DEFine PROCedure moveset
700 set=167722
710 IF RESPR(0)>261120 THEN
720 oldbase=PEEK_L(set)
730 newbase=RESPR(875)
740 FOR m=0 TO 875 STEP 4
750 POKE_L newbase+m,PEEK_L(oldbase+m)
760 NEXT m
770 END IF
780 oldset
790 END DEFine
```

```
800 DEFine PROCedure ask
810 CLS:CSIZE 0,0
820 PRINT "Select the character to be
re-defined"\"by entering its code (32-127)
830 INPUT \"Character code? ";a
840 IF a<32 OR a>127 THEN STOP
850 PRINT \"What character
size (0 to 3)? ";
860 REPeat vet
870 size=INKEY$(-1)
880 SELect ON size=0 TO 3:EXIT vet
890 END REPeat vet
900 PRINT size
910 charbase=newbase+10+(a-32)*9
920 END DEFine
930 DEFine PROCedure newset
940 POKE_L set,newbase
950 END DEFine
960 DEFine PROCedure oldset
970 POKE_L set,oldbase
980 END DEFine
990 DEFine PROCedure prit
1000 LOCal answer$,chan
1010 CLS#0:PRINT #0,"To printer (y/n)
";:answer$=INKEY$(-1)
1020 chan=(answer$=="Y")*8
1030 IF chan THEN OPEN #8,ser1
1040 PRINT #chan,\a;':';:FOR B=1 TO
9:PRINT #chan;' ';PEEK(charbase+B);:NEXT B
1050 END DEFine
```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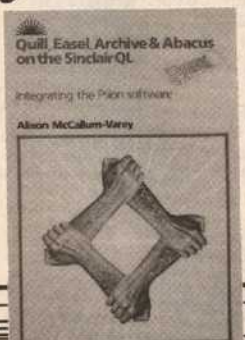

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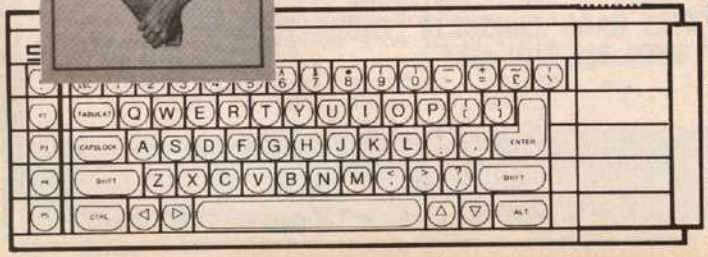

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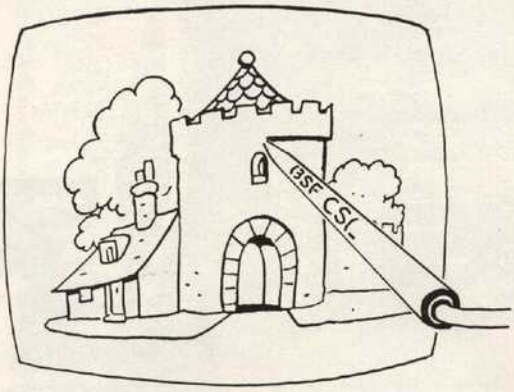

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Fatal mistake

A simple error recovery for the CBM 64
by ***Simon Wallace***

One of the most frustrating occurrences is for a program to crash due to program error. Very often, this error will be due to silly input by the user, and it may not even be possible to guard against such an event from within the Basic program. The only answer is to design programs to recover from error, even where you do not believe that an error could occur!

Many languages and machines have automatic facilities to assist in recovery, but the Commodore 64 does not. The routine shown in this article will enable control to be restored to the program automatically in the event of an error.

The first step is to establish a point in the program which is suitable to *Goto* in order to recover. When a program is started with *Goto* rather than *Run*, the variables are not reinitialised, and the program will restart in the same state as when it was broken. Thus, nothing is lost provided that the program has been designed to restart.

The program must not attempt to define arrays with the *Dim* statement or functions with *Def Fn* as this has already been done once. Files can not be opened a second time, nor can *Data* be *Read* a second time, unless *Restore* is used.

As you will be unable to predict where the error will occur, it is very difficult to make assumptions. If files may or may not be open, always close, then re-open them in the error routine, as this will not cause an error. Never re-enter in the middle of a subroutine or *For-Next* loop. These procedures can be restarted safely, but can not be exited from unless they have been entered at the very beginning. If tape or disc files are being processed, then a specialised data-recovery routine may be needed.

If you set up an error-handling routine according to the above rules, you will be able to restart the program manually by typing *Goto xxx* where *xxx* is the line number of your routine. This in itself can be invaluable. Consider working with the word processor for an hour (as I am at the moment) and not daring to make a mistake lest all your typing be lost! My word processor has just such an error-recovery routine at Line 999 – an easy number to remember. (See *PCW* Vol 3, Nos 26, 27 for listing of word processor.)

The machine-code routine automates the process of typing *Goto 999* when an error has occured. This may sound trivial, but it is far easier to include the routine in the program, than to attempt to explain how and when to recover.

It works as follows: When the error-message routine of the Commodore 64 is entered via the vector at 768-769, control is directed to the new routine which inserts *Goto 999* into the keyboard buffer. As soon as Basic is ready to accept your next command, the message is processed as if it had been typed on the keyboard. In addition to this, the error message number is copied into the unused byte at location 2. The recovery routine in your program can then access this number if so desired. The meanings of the error numbers are given in the table below.

The routine is located at 679 which should be unused. If this is not convenient, change the value of *J* in Line 20 to the start address you prefer. If you would rather use a line number other than 999, change the 57 in Lines 74,75 and 76 to the ASCII codes for the 3-digit line number required (see Appendix F in the User Manual). If you wish the error message to be suppressed, include Line 89 as, *89 Data 162-128*. To reset the vector for normal error handling, *Poke 768,139: Poke 769,227*.

The example program demonstrates how the error-handling routine works. When the program is run, enter any positive number. There will be no abnormal effect as the arithmetic is valid. If zero is entered, a program error is generated as division by zero is illegal.

The program uses the routine to recover by passing control to Line 999. The error message number is found with *Peek*(2), and then printed. Provided it is 20 as expected, control is returned to the main loop. Try changing Line 115 so that it generates a different error, such as a syntax error, and see what effect it has.

Clearly, any professional-quality program should include an error-recovery routine such as this. However, even the most basic Basic will be more satisfying if it keeps going to the correct end. Additionally, error-proofing such as this can be used in conjunction with break-proofing (see *PCW* Vol 3, No 13) to ensure that a program terminates as intended without the user being able to interrupt execution, whether by accident or design.

Error message table

Byte 2	Message
1	TOO MANY FILES
2	FILE OPEN
3	FILE NOT OPEN
4	FILE NOT FOUND
5	DEVICE NOT PRESENT
6	NOT INPUT FILE
7	NOT OUTPUT FILE
8	MISSING FILE NAME
9	ILLEGAL DEVICE NUMBER
10	NEXT WITHOUT FOR
11	SYNTAX
12	RETURN WITHOUT GOSUB
13	OUT OF DATA
14	ILLEGAL QUANTITY
15	OVERFLOW
16	OUT OF MEMORY
17	UNDEF'D STATEMENT
18	BAD SUBSCRIPT
19	REDIM'D ARRAY
20	DIVISION BY ZERO
21	ILLEGAL DIRECT
22	TYPE MISMATCH
23	STRING TOO LONG
24	FILE DATA
25	FORMULA TOO COMPLEX
26	CAN'T CONTINUE
27	UNDEF'D FUNCTION
28	VERIFY
29	LOAD
30	BREAK

Continued over the page

Commodore 64

```
0 REM PROGRAM TO DEMONSTRATE
   ERROR RECOVERY
5 REM
10 REM FOLLOWING CODE
   SETS UP RECOVERY
15 REM
20 J=679 : JA=J
30 READ I : IF I<0 THEN 45
40 POKE J,I : J=J+1 : GOTO 30
45 I=INT (JA/256)
46 J=JA-I*256
50 POKE 768,J : POKE 769,I
60 DATA 134,2
70 DATA 224,128,240,34
72 DATA 169,71,141,119,2
73 DATA 169,111,141,120,2
74 DATA 169,57,141,121,2
75 DATA 169,57,141,122,2
76 DATA 169,57,141,123,2
80 DATA 169,13,141,124,2
85 DATA 169,6,133,198
86 REM
87 REM NEXT LINE IF USED SUPPRESSES
88 REM THE ERROR MESSAGE
89 REM... 89 DATA 162,128
90 DATA 76,139,227,-1
99 REM
100 REM EXAMPLE PROGRAM STARTS
101 REM
105 PRINT "ENTER ZERO TO
CRASH PROGRAM"
106 PRINT "OR NEGATIVE
NUMBER TO STOP"
110 INPUT D : IF D<0 THEN END
115 E=1/D
120 GOTO 105
900 REM
905 REM ON ERROR -
JUMPS TO LABEL 999
910 REM      AS IF YOU
TYPED 'GOTO 999'
915 REM
920 REM ERROR NUMBER
IS STORED IN LOC 2
925 REM
999 PRINT "ERROR ROUTINE ENTERED"
1000 ER=PEEK(2)
1010 PRINT "ERROR NUMBER IS";ER
1020 IF ER=20 THEN 105
1030 PRINT "THIS REALLY
IS AN UNEXPECTED ERROR"
1040 STOP
```


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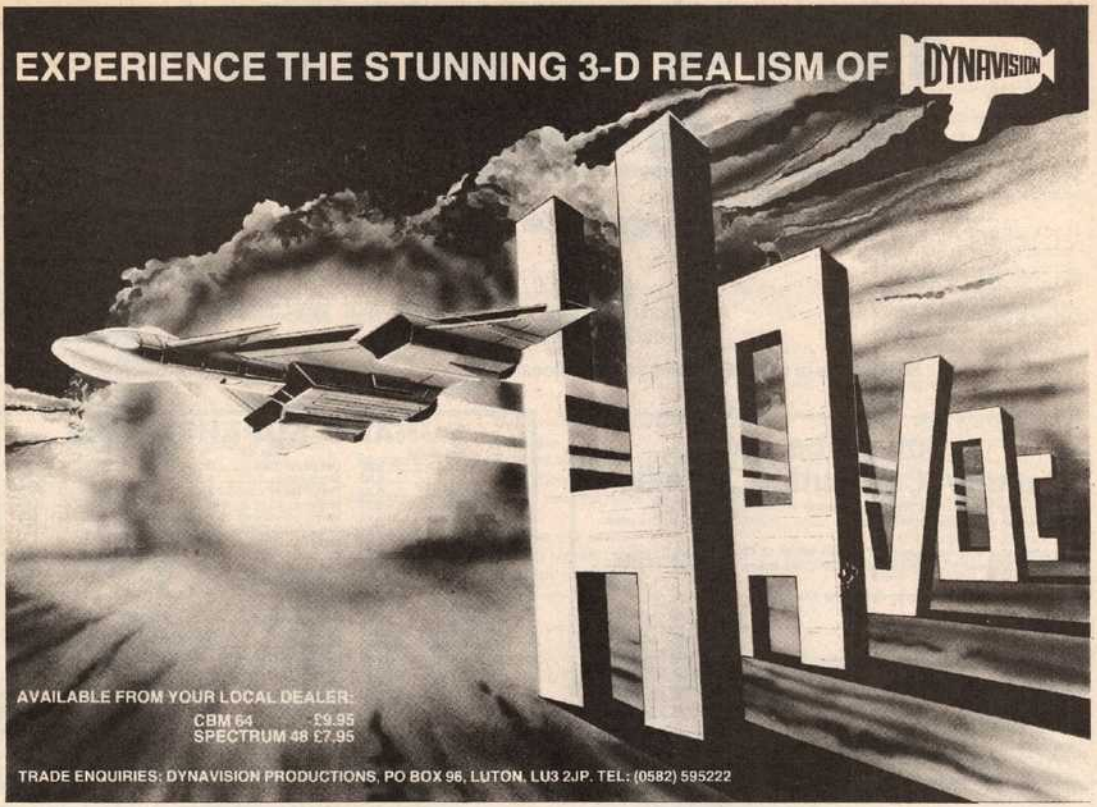

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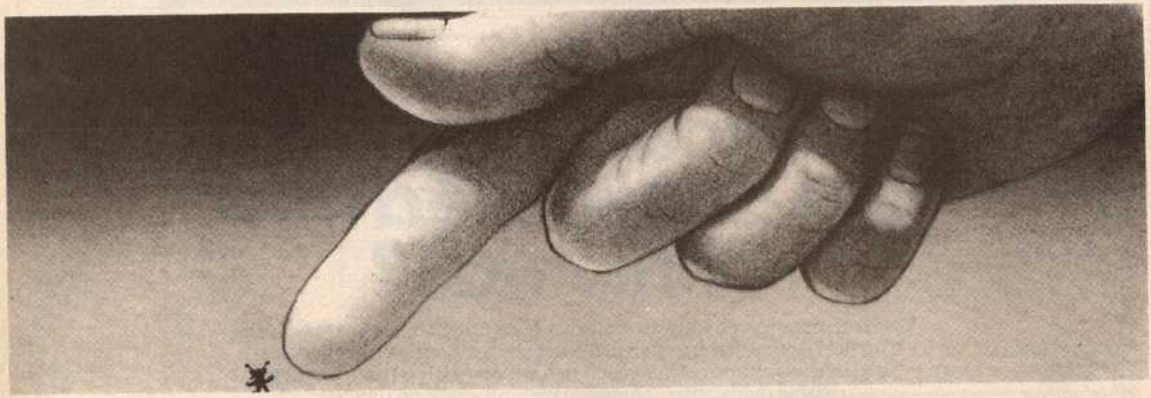

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Time is on your side

***Andrew Heptonstall** shows you how to teach children the time (without restorting to Playschool) on the BBC B*

This program was designed to help children learn to tell the time. To make this process easier, it has three levels of difficulty. Level one tests hours only, level two includes quarter and half-past the hour, and level three goes on to explore the mysteries of five minute intervals!

I would suggest that an adult is present when the program is first run, to show the child how to enter his or her answer. Possible answers are presented in a multiple choice format and either answer one, two or three is chosen. This method of presentation was used to prevent spelling mistakes causing problems.

The program should work on a Model A if the *Colour* and *Gcol* statements are missed out, and the *Mode* 1 statements are changed to *Mode* 4.

Program notes

Procinit:	Calls procedures to set up the program.
Procarray:	Fills the array which contains the times.
Procname:	Asks you to type in your name.
Proclevel:	Choose the level.
Procrandomtimes:	Selects random times depending on the level.
Procmain:	Calls the other procedures.
Procolours:	Redefines the colours.
Proclock:	Draws the clock.
Prochands:	Draws the hands on the clock.
Prochoose:	Chooses times for the other options.
Proctime:	Divides the time by 5.
Procprint:	Prints the time in a random order on the screen.
Procanswer:	Waits for an answer.
Proctick:	Draws a tick if the answer is correct.
Procross:	Draws a cross if the answer is wrong.
Procpause:	Pauses for a set amount of time.
Fnx:	Provides a x co-ordinate for drawing the clock.
Fny:	Provides a y co-ordinate for drawing the clock.
Fnhour:	Selects a random hour.
Fnmin:	Select a random minute, depending on the level. (This function is not called if the level selected is one).

```
 10 REM ** The Time Tutor **
 20 REM ** Andrew B. Heptonstall **
 30 REM ** August 4th. 1984 **
 40 ONERROR GOTO 40
 50 *KEY10 OLD|MRUN|M
 60 MODE 7
 70 CLEAR
 80 forever=FALSE
 90 PROCinit
100 PROClevel
110   REPEAT
120 PROCrandomtimes
130MODE1
140 PROCmain
150 IF NOT correct THEN MODE1:PROCmain
160   UNTIL forever
170 DEF PROCinit
180 PROCarray
190 PROCname
200 ENDPROC
210 DEF PROCarray
220 ENVELOPE 1,2,0,0,0,1,1,1,126,
    -2,-2,-2,126,100
230 DIM A$(12)
240  FOR A%=1 TO 12
250 READ A$(A%)
260  NEXT A%
270 ENDPROC
280 DATA 5 past,10 past,quarter past,20
    past,25 past,half past,25 to,20 to,qua
    rter to,10 to,5 to," o'clock"
290 DEF PROCname
300 CLS
310  FOR A%=0 TO 1
320 PRINTCHR$141;CHR$131;SPC(6);
    "The Time Tutor"
330  NEXT A%
340 PRINT'CHR$129;"You must now
    type in your name."
350 PRINTCHR$129;"(And then press RETURN)"
360 PRINT '''
370 INPUT "What is your name",N$
380 ENDPROC
390 DEFPROClevel
400 CLS
410  FOR A%=0 TO 1
420 PRINTCHR$141;CHR$131;SPC(6);
"The Time Tutor"
430  NEXT A%
440 PRINT''CHR$129;SPC(2);
    "What level do you want?"
450 PRINT'CHR$130;SPC(1);"Level
    1: Hours only"
460 PRINT'CHR$130;SPC(1);"Level 2:
    Half and quarter past"
470 PRINT'CHR$130;SPC(1);"Level 3:
    Any five minutes"
480 PRINT''CHR$134;CHR$136;SPC(4);
    "Press 1,2 or 3"
490 *FX21,0
500   REPEAT
510 LET G$=GET$
520 UNTIL G$="1" OR G$="2" OR G$="3"
530 IF G$="1" THEN LET M%=60 ELSE M%=FALSE
540 IF G$="2" THEN LET D%=4:E%=15
550 IF G$="3" THEN LET D%=12:E%=5
560 ENDPROC
570 DEF PROCrandomtimes
580 IF M%<>60 THEN LET M%=FNmin(D%,E%)
590 LET H%=FNhour(12)
600 ENDPROC
610 DEF PROCmain
620 VDU 23;8202;0;0;0;
630 PROCcolours
640 PROCclock
650 PROChands
660 PROCchoose
670 PROCanswer
680 ENDPROC
690 DEF PROCcolours
700 VDU 19,1,6,0,0,0
710 VDU 19,2,2,0,0,0
720 VDU 19,0,4,0,0,0
730 ENDPROC
740 DEF PROCclock
750 PRINTTAB(15,0);"Time Tutor"
760 LOCAL var1%,var2%,var3%
770 MOVE 450,900
780  FOR V%=0 TO 366 STEP 12
790 LET X%=SIN(RAD(V%))*400+450
800 LET Y%=COS(RAD(V%))*400+500
810 DRAW X%,Y%
820  NEXT V%
830 VDU 5
```

Continued over the page

```
840  FOR A%=1 TO 12
850 LET X%=FNx(A%)
860 LET Y%=FNy(A%)
870 MOVE X%+450,Y%+500
880 DRAW (X%*.9)+450,(Y%*.9)+500
890 MOVE (X%*1.1)+150,(Y%*1.1)+500
900 PRINT A%;
910 NEXT A%
920 VDU 4
930 ENDPROC
940 DEF PROChands
950 GCOL 0,1
960 LOCAL V1%,V2%,V3%,V4%
970 LET X%=FNx(M%/5)
980 LET Y%=FNy(M%/5)
990 IF (M%>35 AND M%<55) OR (M%>5 AND M%<25)
THEN LETV1%=450:V2%=450:V3%=470:V
4%=530 ELSE LETV1%=480:V2%=420:V3%=500:V4%=500
1000 MOVE V1%,V3%
1010 MOVE V2%,V4%
1020 PLOT 85,X%+450,Y%+500
1030 GCOL 0,2
1040 LET X%=FNx(H%)
1050 LET Y%=FNy(H%)
1060 IF (H%>7 AND H%<11) OR (H%>1 AND H%<5)
THEN LET V1%=450:V2%=450:V3%=470:V4
%=530 ELSE LET V1%=480:
V2%=420:V3%=500:V4%=500
1070 MOVE V1%,V3%
1080 MOVE V2%,V4%
1090 PLOT 85,(X%*.6)+450,(Y%*.6)+500
1100 ENDPROC
1110 DEF PROCchoose
1120 LET T%=0
1130 LOCAL V1%,V2%,V3%,V4%
1140 IF M%=60 THEN LET V1%=60:
V3%=60:PROCchimes:GOTO1170
1150 LET V1%=FNmin(D%,E%)
1160 LET V3%=FNmin(D%,E%)
1170 REPEAT
1180 LET V2%=FNhour(12)
1190 LET V4%=FNhour(12)
1200   UNTIL H%<>V2% AND H%<>V4% AND V2%<>V4%
1210 PROCtime(M%)
1220 LET M%=T%
1230 LET M$=A$(T%)
1240 PROCtime(V1%)
1250 LET V1%=T%
1260 LET V1$=A$(T%)
1270 PROCtime(V3%)
1280 LET V3%=T%
1290 LET V3$=A$(T%)
1300 PROCprint
1310 ENDPROC
1320 DEF PROCchimes
1330 RESTORE 1390
1340  FOR A%=1 TO 8
1350 READ pitch,duration
1360 SOUND 1,1,pitch+48,duration
1370  NEXT A%
1380 ENDPROC
1390 DATA 61,10,33,10,41,10,13,20
1400 DATA 13,10,41,10,49,10,33,10
1410 DEF PROCtime(Time)
1420 LET T%=Time/5
1430 ENDPROC
1440 DEF PROCprint
1450   REPEAT
1460 LET Y1%=(RND(3)*3)
1470 LET Y2%=(RND(3)*3)
1480 LET Y3%=(RND(3)*3)
1490   UNTIL Y1%<>Y2% AND Y2%<>Y3%
AND Y3%<>Y1%
1500 COLOUR 2
1510 COLOUR 131
1520 PRINTTAB(26,5);"1.";
TAB(26,8);"2.";TAB(26,11);"3."
1530 COLOUR 1
1540 IF V3%=12 THEN PRINTTAB(28,2+Y1%);V4%;
V3$ ELSE PRINTTAB(28,2+Y1%);V3$;TAB(
32,3+Y1%);V4%
1550 IFV1%=12 THEN PRINTTAB(28,2+Y2%);V2%;V1$
ELSE PRINTTAB(28,2+Y2%);V1$;TAB(3
2,3+Y2%);V2%
1560 IF M%=12 THEN PRINTTAB(28,2+Y3%);H%;M$
ELSE PRINTTAB(28,2+Y3%);M$;TAB(32,3
+Y3%);H%
1570 ENDPROC
1580 DEF PROCanswer
1590 LET M%=M%*5
1600 COLOUR 0
1610 COLOUR 129
1620 LET Y3%=Y3%/3
1630 PRINTTAB(28,18);"Please press"
1640 PRINTTAB(28,19);"1,2 or 3     "
1650 PRINTTAB(28,20);"to choose    "
1660 PRINTTAB(28,21);"the right    "
1670 PRINTTAB(28,22);"answer.      "
1680 *FX21,0
1690   REPEAT
1700 G$=GET$
1710   UNTIL G$="1" OR G$="2" OR G$="3"
1720 CLS
1730 PRINTTAB(15,1);"Time Tutor"
1740 IF Y3%<>(ASC(G$)-48) THEN GOSUB
1750 ENDPROC
1840 ELSE GOSUB 1760
1760 PRINT'TAB(5);"Well done ";N$;"
you choose the"
1770 PRINT" correct answer."
1780 PROCtick
1790 PRINT'"  Press the ANY KEY
to play again"
1800 *FX21,0
1810 LET G$=GET$
1820 LET correct=TRUE
1830 RETURN
1840 PRINT'TAB(8);"Sorry ";N$;"
you choose the"
1850 PRINT " wrong answer."
1860 PROCcross
1870 PRINT'"  Press ANY KEY to try again"
1880 *FX21,0
1890 LET G$=GET$
1900 LET correct=FALSE
1910 RETURN
1920 DEF PROCtick
1930 GCOL 0,0
1940 MOVE 448,192
1950 DRAW 640,0
1960 DRAW 1024,512
1970 ENDPROC
1980 DEF PROCcross
1990 GCOL 0,0
2000 MOVE 448,576
2010 DRAW 768,64
2020 MOVE 448,64
2030 DRAW 768,576
2040 ENDPROC
2050 DEF PROCpause(P%)
2060 TIME=0
2070   REPEAT
2080   UNTIL TIME>P%
2090 ENDPROC
2100 DEF FNx(x)=SINRAD(x*30)*400
2110 DEF FNy(y)=COSRAD(y*30)*400
2120 DEF FNhour(x)=RND(x)
2130 DEF FNmin(x,y)=RND(x)*y
```

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Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed.

Plotter

on Commodore 64

This program should also work on the unexpanded Vic 20. If you have a 1520 plotter/printer this program allows you to draw and doodle directly onto the paper without having to work out lots of co-ordinates.

You can draw in 8 directions by using the keys mentioned in the program. By keying S you can change the pen colour or the mode, of which there are two. While in mode M your pen will just move about without making any marks but in mode D lines will be drawn.

Directional movement of the pen is given using the main compass points.

Program notes

3-120 Initialise and set screen display.
130-230 Check for key depression and move to appropriate sub-routine.
240-250 Draws or moves to next point.
1000-1020 North-west movement.
2000-2020 North.
3000-3020 North-east.
4000-4020 West.
5000-5020 East.
6000-6020 South-west.
7000-7020 South.
8000-8020 South-east.
9000-10110 Change colour or mode.

Variables

M$ Mode.
C$ Colour.
A$, R$, B$ Input variables.
X,Y Co-ordinates of pen.
O$ Operation being performed.
H Maximum height of drawing.

```
1 REM "DOODLE" BY SARAH COTTON
2 REM FOR USE ON THE 1520 PLOTTER
/PRINTER
3 POKE650,255
8 M$="D":C$="BLACK"
10 OPEN1,4,1:OPEN2,4,2:PRINT#2,"0"
40 INPUT"s[QQQQQQQQQQQQ]HEIGHT
(50-999)";H
45 IFH<50ORH>999THEN40
50 PRINT#1,"M";0,-H:PRINT#1,"I"
70 PRINT"s"
80 PRINT"[QQ]COLOUR:";C$
85 PRINT"[QQ]MODE:";M$
87 PRINT"[QQ]OPERATION:";O$
90 PRINT"Q QWE"
100 PRINT" A D"
110 PRINT" ZXC"
120 PRINT"[QQS-COLOUR/MODE"
130 GETA$
140 IFA$=""THEN130
150 IFA$="Q"THENGOSUB1000
160 IFA$="W"THENGOSUB2000
170 IFA$="E"THENGOSUB3000
180 IFA$="A"THENGOSUB4000
190 IFA$="D"THENGOSUB5000
```

Arcade Avenue

Freddy's cat

The *Jetset Willy* postbag is bulging, as usual, with some particularly interesting letters this week. First of all thanks to James Blair of Coleraine and David Whittall of Birmingham for your letters but the *Pokes* are a bit too familiar to publish again. Stephen Cargill of Southport has sent in the following small program for owners of Interface 1 which stops the crash when the pause key is pressed. To be loaded at 8B1F hex or 35615 decimal.

Hex	Assembly
21 E2 85	LD HL, 85E2
01 FE BF	LD BC, BFFE
ED 78	IN, A, (C)
2F	CPL
E6 1F	AND 1F

The problem occurs because port 0 is read when the key is pressed. The new program provides an improved method of testing the keyboard. To load it type *Merge* "" (*Enter*) — load the basic then type *Clear* 32767:*Load* "" *Code* (*Enter*). Then enter the hex and type *Save* "Jetset" *Line* 1:*Save* "jsw" *Code* 32768, 32768 (*Enter*)". For those of you with no hex loader I have converted Stephen's hex — *Poke* 35615 to 35625:33, 226, 133, 1, 254, 191, 237, 120, 47, 230, 31.

Along similar lines, Graeme Carrot of Gosforth has sent in poke 36635,239 for owners of Interface 2. He also gives us the following — *Poke* 36477, 1 makes Willy immune when falling, *Poke* 38240, 0 kills off Maria, *Poke* 36358, 0 "turns you into zebedee to go bouncing around the mansion (though you end up in the off licence or stuck in the sand of the beach)", *Poke* 36545, 0 makes the Banyan Tree easier, *Poke* 34795, 47 makes you start in an empty room above the conservatory roof and *Poke* 41983, 255 allows the finishing routine to be seen with only one object collected.

In his fascinating letter he goes on "to clear up the mystery of the names used — Nomen Luni is a mickey take of Imagine's *Zzoom* logo, and a 'Quirkafleeg' is a strange chant expressed while lying on your back like a dead dog in the presence of dead furry animals (see 'The Adventures of Fat Freddy's Cat No. 5").

Graeme finishes: "I eagerly await the CBM 64 version with four extra rooms, and more from the Matthew Smith stable — but please add an 'Attic' feature — it's so much fun trying to get round it!" However, I should point out I have had some letters from very angry people who do not agree with him. One signed "A frustrated JSW player" was very bitter indeed about the fact that the game could not be completed "honestly" and that since you had to *Poke* around to finish the game there is no proof that the winners "moved miner Willy one inch".

Finally for this week a letter and tape from Chris Jenkins and Paul Rhodes of 104 Vetnor Gardens, Luton, Beds, LU3 3SW who are offering for sale (I don't know how much) a JSW editor — a marvellous utility that allows you to redefine everything including the room layout, the map of the mansion, the position shape and speed of the arrows. **Tony Kendle**

The Arcade Corner is a new section for anyone who enjoys playing arcade games. If you have any comments, from playing tips on difficult games or programs you'd particularly like to praise (or blame!) then write to: Tony Kendle, Arcade Avenue, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

```
200 IFA$="Z"THENGOSUB6000
210 IFA$="X"THENGOSUB7000
220 IFA$="C"THENGOSUB8000
230 IFA$="S"THENGOSUB9000
240 IFM$="D"THENPRINT#1,"J";X,Y
250 IFM$="M"THENPRINT#1,"R";X,Y
260 GOTO70
1000 IFX-15<00RY+15>HTHENRETURN
1010 X=X-15:Y=Y+15
1020 O$="NORTH-WEST":RETURN
2000 IFY+15>HTHENRETURN
2010 Y=Y+15
2020 O$="NORTH":RETURN
3000 IFX+15>460RY+15>HTHENRETURN
3010 X=X+15:Y=Y+15
3020 O$="NORTH-EAST":RETURN
4000 IFX-15<0THENRETURN
4010 X=X-15
4020 O$="WEST":RETURN
5000 IFX+15>460THENRETURN
5010 X=X+15
5020 O$="EAST":RETURN
6000 IFY-15<-9990RX-15<0THENRETURN
6010 Y=Y-15::X=X+15
6020 O$="SOUTH-WEST":RETURN
7000 IFY-15<-999THENRETURN
7010 Y=Y-15
7020 O$="SOUTH":RETURN
8000 IFX+15>460RY-15<-999THENRETURN
8010 X=X+15:Y=Y-15:RETURN
9000 PRINT"s"
9010 PRINT"QQPLEASE INPUT NUMBER"
9020 PRINT"QOF REQUIRED OPERATION"
9030 PRINT"QQQ1-DRAW"
9040 PRINT"QQ2-MOVE"
9050 PRINT"QQ3-CHANGE COLOUR"
9060 GETB$:IFB$=""THEN9060
9070 IFB$="1"THENM$="D"
9080 IFB$="2"THENM$="M"
9090 IFB$="3"THEN10000
9100 RETURN
10000 PRINT"sQQINPUT COLOUR NUMBER:"
10010 PRINT"QQQ0-BLACK"
10020 PRINT"QQ1-BLUE"
10030 PRINT"QQ2-GREEN"
10040 PRINT"QQ3-RED"
10050 GETR$:IFR$=""THEN10050
10060 PRINT#2,VAL(R$)
10070 IFR$="0"THENC$="BLACK"
10080 IFR$="1"THENC$="BLUE"
10090 IFR$="2"THENC$="GREEN"
10100 IFR$="3"THENC$="RED"
10110 RETURN
```

Plotter
by Sarah Cotton

Microradio

GW6JJN

Cellular radio

Some of you may remember reading the Microradio article on Cellular Radio a few weeks ago and may have some understanding regarding the complexities involved.

If not, you will be like most people in thinking that it is just an extension to the normal radiophone system, but many times better.

The whole concept of Cellular Radio is very new and revolutionary. To have a telephone in a car is not very new, perhaps, but Cellular Radio offers much more than this. Imagine having, wherever you go, a small phone which you can use to speak to anyone both through the cellular system or through the public telephone system. Of course, the whole thing is handled by computers and you don't need to know what a cell is just to Dial-a-disc.

You don't need to know that as you move from cell to cell, the frequency of your transmission changes automatically within two milliseconds and automatic digitial systems track your every move ... all very futuristic.

Two companies have recently been licensed by the govern ment to introduce this incredible system over the next few months. The first is Telecom Securicor Cellular Radio which will operate a system called Cellnet. Telecom Securicor is composed rather obviously of British Telecom who owns 51% and Securicor who owns the other 49% of the firm.

The second company to get a licence is Racal. Not a household word, at least not until they started advertising on television recently just so that everyone will know who they are when the cut-throat competition begins in earnest.

So what is on offer from these firms? Telephone calls from anywhere to anywhere, any time, any place is one thing. Another is the ability to send data at 600 bits per second so anyone can talk to a computer. What this means in practice is that you could set out on a car journey, tell the computer where you are going and the computer will work out he best route knowing of course where the snarl-ups are.

Racal say this could save the country nearly two thousand million pounds a year which is what they estimate is wasted on fuel and road accidents, etc.

The whole idea of computer communications on the move is taking off in a big way. Under the government's programme of research into this very subject are big names like Racal, Cambridge University and several other universities, Acorn Computers, BL Technology (of talking Maestro fame), Shell and BP and not least, the RAC who sees the potential for its members.

It all sounds very expensive, but both Telecom Securicor and Racal deny this. The system already costs less than the current radiophone and the price is falling by the hour.

Ray Berry GW6JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to: Ray Berry, Microradio, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Open Forum

Fighter

on Spectrum

In this game for the 16K machine you are the pilot of a hovering craft. You are armed with missiles and have a total of 5 aircraft. If you crash your aircraft or fire too late you will be destroyed. Keys 6 & 7 manoeuvre the aircraft in the direction of the cursers, 0 fires the missile. Your score is displayed every time you crash or hit a plane.

Graphics

120 — Graphic ABBA
140 — Graphic DBBA
250 — Graphic J

```
  1 GO SUB 1000
  2 PRINT "   SIDEWINDER": PRIN
T : PRINT : PRINT "Hit the USSR
Migs with your   SIDEWINDER mi
ssiles.": PRINT : PRINT "6&7 for
 up&down.Fire missile-0"
  3 PAUSE 300
  5 BORDER 5: PAPER 5: INK 0
 10 LET s=0
 20 LET c=0
 30 LET a=1
 40 LET fx=27
 50 LET fy=10
 60 LET ex=0
 70 LET ey=INT (RND*20)+1
 80 LET c=c+1
 90 LET y=fy
100 LET x=fx
110 CLS
120 PRINT AT fy,fx;"▬▬▬"
130 IF y=ey AND (x=ex+1 OR x=ex
+2 OR x=ex+3) THEN GO TO 270
140 PRINT AT ey,ex; INK 2;"▙▬"
;
150 LET ex=ex+2
160 IF ex>27 THEN GO TO 60
170 LET a$=INKEY$
180 IF a$="5" AND fy<20 THEN LE
T fy=fy+1
190 IF a$="7" AND fy>0 THEN LET
 fy=fy-1
200 IF a$="0" OR x<27 THEN LET
x=x-1
210 IF a$="1" THEN GO TO 500
215 PAUSE 3
220 IF x<27 AND x>0 THEN : BEEP
.01,10: GO SUB 250
230 IF x<27 AND x>ex THEN GO TO
 110
240 GO TO 90
250 PRINT AT y,x;"▬"
260 RETURN
270 IF ex<=23 THEN PRINT AT 0,0
;"AIRCRAFT DESTROYED."
280 LET s=s+1
290 IF ex>23 THEN PRINT AT 0,0;
"YOU DESTROY ATTACKING AIRCRAFT.
";"BUT YOU ARE ALSO DESTROYED."
300 PRINT "YOU HAVE BROUGHT DOU
N:";s;"AIRCRAFT";
310 IF c-s=0 OR c-s>1 THEN PRIN
T TAB 16;c-s;" HAVE ESCAPED."
320 IF c-s=1 THEN PRINT TAB 16;
c-s;" HAS ESCAPED."
330 FOR n=1 TO 800
340 NEXT n
350 IF ex>23 THEN GO TO 370
360 GO TO 60
370 LET a=a+1
380 IF a=6 THEN GO TO 440
390 PRINT
400 PRINT "DO YOU WISH TO SCRAM
BLE","FIGHTER NO.";a;"?(Y/N)"
410 INPUT b$
420 IF b$<>"y" THEN GO TO 490
430 GO TO 60
440 PRINT
450 PRINT "ALL FIGHTERS HAVE BE
EN SCRAMBLED";"DO YOU WISH TO TR
Y AGAIN?  (Y/N)"
460 INPUT c$
470 IF c$<>"y" THEN GO TO 490
480 RUN
490 CLS
500 STOP
1000 FOR n=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE
USR "A"+n,a: NEXT n
1010 DATA BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN
0,BIN 00001110,BIN 00011011,BIN
01111111,BIN 11111111
1020 FOR n=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE
USR "B"+n,a: NEXT n
1030 DATA BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN
0,BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN 11111111,BIN 1
1111111
1050 FOR n=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE
USR "D"+n,a: NEXT n
1060 DATA BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN
0,BIN 00111000,BIN 01101100,BIN
11111110,BIN 11111111
1070 FOR n=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE
USR "F"+n,a: NEXT n
1080 DATA BIN 10000000,BIN 11000
000,BIN 11100000,BIN 11110000,BI
N 11111000,BIN 11111100,BIN 1111
1111,BIN 11111111,BIN 0
1085 FOR n=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE
USR "J"+n,a: NEXT n
1090 DATA BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN 0,BIN
01000011,BIN 11111111,BIN 01000
11,BIN 0,BIN 0
1100 RETURN
```

Fighter
by S Eaton

Baud Walk

Net gain

The battle of the database, forecast some time ago in Baud Walk now begins in earnest with the launch at the PCW Show of Compunet.

Compunet — which initially is only for Commodore 64 owners, but hopes to add other machines to its stable next year — sacrifices speed of response time for true interactive capabilities.

Its rival in the marketplace, Micronet 800, is just launching its database for the 64. The response time speed on Micronet's system is superior to Compunet, but lacks the degree of flexibility.

That flexibility is what Compunet is banking on; users of the service can upload their own information completely error corrected, thus potentially the half a million 64 owners can exchange files, sell to each other, even become mini publishers — and what they charge is entirely up to them.

There was little to see on Compunet at the launch, not surprising as it's really a user driven system with the free-for-all area labelled The Jungle still being formulated. What Compunet can do is offer commercial software suppliers telesoftware security. Each modem has a unique identity and downloaded software can only be run with that modem in place.

Nick Green, of Compunet (it's really evolved from an educational brainchild of his called Petnet) says over a dozen software houses are contracted, such as Llamasoft, Severn and Commodore themselves.

Whether all this software finally arrives has yet to be proven. Certainly, Micronet found latest releases hard to come by — but Commodore's market influence may give Compunet an edge.

It costs £99.99 to buy the Commodore modem; which transmits at 1200/75 full duplex and 1200/1200 half duplex, and that includes a year's free subscription to the system! Compunet charges users for storing information and takes commission from anything you sell to other users. Its mailbox charge of 10p is particularly prohibitive.

The terminal software offers a good editing system in an 8k ROM and the network scrolls across the screen a type of 'duck shoot' menu — you hit the space bar to trap an option which ranges from help to store, view, etc.

Information is displayed on your 64 in hi-resolution, and that certainly is more attractive than the teletext character display of most viewdata systems. Commodore's Mark Horne commented, "Until now no manufacturer has done more than scratch the surface of true interactive communications."

Whether Compunet can deliver what it promises — good software, teleshopping from Comp-U-card and a bank for home financial services/transactions — remains to be seen. Further information from Compunet Teleservices, Metford House, 15-18 Clipstone Street, London W1P 5DS or VicSoft, Commodore UK, 1 Hunters Way, Weldon, Corby, Northants.

Robin Wilkinson

Baud Walk is a new weekly column with news on networking, databases, reviews of modems and software and points of contact for information.

Any readers with experience of networking are asked to send their experiences or news of services to Robin Wilkinson, Baud Walk *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

He can also be contacted on Prestel mailbox 019993737.

Moving Graphics

on BBC

This program shows how VDU 19 can be used to make things move. The computer first draws an oval, then horizontal and vertical lines over it. When the lines are completed they will start to move, changing direction and colour every so often.

Progam notes

Lines 10-80	Work out variables
Lines 90-180	Main program
Procovel	Draws oval
Proclines	Draws horizontal lines
Proclines 2	Draws verical lines
Procmove	Moves lines

```
10 MODE4
20 PRINTTAB(12,10),"PLEASE WAIT"
30 DIM S(90),C(90)
40 T%=0
50 FOR A=0 TO RAD 360 STEP RAD 4
60 S(T%)=SIN(A):C(T%)=COS(A)
70 T%=T%+1
80 NEXT
90 REM========MAIN PROGRAM=======
100 MODE 2
110 REM
120 C%=7:TI%=0
130 R%=-400:R1%=600
140 PROCOVEL
150 PROCLINES
160 PROCLINES2
170 PROCMOVE
180 END
190 REM=========PROCDURES========
200 DEFPROCOVEL
210 GCOL 0,1
220 VDU 29,640;512;
230 MOVE 0,0
240 FOR A%=0 TO 90 STEP 2
250 MOVE 0,0
260 PLOT 85,S(A%)*600,C(A%)*400
270 NEXT
280 ENDPROC
290 REM======HORIZONTAL LINES======
300 DEFPROCLINES
310 REPEAT
320 MOVE 600,0
330 C%=C%+1:IF C%=16 THEN C%=7
340 GCOL 0,C%
350 FOR T%=23 TO 67 STEP 3
360 DRAW S(T%)*600,C(T%)*R%
370 NEXT
380 R%=R%+30
390 UNTIL R%>400
400 ENDPROC
410 REM=======VERTICAL LINES=====
420 DEFPROCLINES2
430 REPEAT
440 MOVE 0,400
450 C%=C%+1:IF C%=16 THEN C%=7
460 GCOL 0,C%
470 FOR T%=0 TO 45 STEP 3
480 DRAW S(T%)*R1%,C(T%)*400
490 NEXT
500 R1%=R1%-40:UNTIL R1%<-600
510 ENDPROC
520 REM========MOVEING SECTION======
530 DEFPROCMOVE
540 C%=7:RN%=RND(6):RN1%=RND(6)
550 REPEAT
560 TI%=TI%+1
570 C%=C%+1:IF C%=16 THEN C%=7
580 VDU 19,C%,RN%,0,0,0
590 PAUSE=INKEY(7)
600 VDU 19,C%,RN1%,0,0,0
610 UNTIL TI%=100
620 TI%=0:RN%=RND(6):RN1%=RND(6)
630 REPEAT
640 TI%=TI%+1
650 C%=C%-1:IF C%=6 THEN C%=15
660 VDU 19,C%,RN%,0,0,0
670 PAUSE=INKEY(7)
680 VDU 19,C%,RN1%,0,0,0
690 UNTIL TI%=100
700 TI%=0:RN%=RND(6):RN1%=RND(6)
710 GOTO 550
720 ENDPROC
```

Moving Graphics
by Mark Dixon

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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner

LOM feature

Last week, I looked at *Lords of Midnight*, and ended up promising help. "Never in reviews of the game have I seen any clues," says Paul Newton of Swindon. He seems to be having a lot of trouble. His letter was quite long, but he has two main problems — first, once Morkin or Fawkin have the Ice Crown, there seems to be no option offered by the program to destroy it. This wouldn't be so bad, as the game may also be won by defeating the armies of Doomdark — but Paul finds that, even with a much larger army, the Free are defeated.

First things first, Paul — as you pointed out, Fawkin the Skulkrin can also destroy the Ice Crown (find him at MoonHenge, which is West of the Forest of Lother, between the Downs of Mirron and the Mountains of Toomog, in the Province of the Moon), and this information can be gained by asking at one of the many Towers of the Wise. You may also find other characters who can destroy it, such as Lorgrim the Wise (find him up in the top North-East corner of the Map of Midnight, by Lorhenge, on the Plains of Fadrath) and Farflame the Dragonlord, who is very weak. You'll find this character at the Tower of Coroth.

However, it seems, from what I have been told, that you need to get at least one friend to go with Morkin (although Gregg Reid of Dundee reckons that you need all four); although there is a clue about a certain lake that will also destroy the ice Crown, so if Morkin is alone, he may still be able to destroy the Ice Crown by finding the Lake.

As for the strategic problems, I'm reliably informed (by Keir Thorpe from Weybridge, among others), that you must keep Luxor away from Citadels *and* your main armies — he is the one that the Foul can detect, and they want his blood! Keep him on the move for this reason.

The strategic game must be embarked upon as well the adventure quest, as the armies that you gradually recruit will act as a diversion for the Foul forces, keeping them, you hope, away from Morkin and his companions. If the quest for the Ice Crown proves a failure, then you should still be in a position to press on with a military build-up.

Several other hints have been passed on to me — Farflame, for instance can be very useful, because, as well as being immune from the Ice Fear (or maybe because of this), he can travel much faster than the other characters, who seem to be limited to about eight moves per day. Beware Snowhalls and Kenges — there you will find the Hand of Dark, which "brings death to the day" for the finder. Don't rely too heavily on finding lakes to refresh your characters; although your forces will be "utterly invigorated" after drinking at a lake, it is a day or two before it can be used again.

Don't rely too much, either, on the Lord of Brith — "You'll find", says Keir, "that he may well become utterly afraid at the most unfortunate times, just before a battle and so on. I have also discovered a possible bug — when some of the characters, particularly Rorthron and Luxor, move to some locations (Liths, for example), night falls, although when you *Look* again, it is still day for them. Also, can someone please tell me why Morkin cannot recruit anyone South of Coroth?" Keir has also found some locations not marked on the map — for example, the Citadel of Dawn due South of Marakith, held by the Free, and the Citadel of Gorgrath on the Plains of Walethor, held by the Foul.

One thing that would seem to be worthwhile doing, is to make a detailed plan of your actions, thus keeping a check on the movements of all the forces at your command — and those of Doomdark, if possible. There are so many that you cannot possibly hope to remember where everyone is.

As Dave Wagner, of Acton in London, says: "Despite being not, in any way, a wargame enthusiast, I find it totally enthralling. I have never felt so involved before, and can scarcely wait for my adventuring partner to get back from holiday so we can really get going — controlling and correlating the efforts of so many characters is very hard work and much better shared, I'm sure. I really think this is the best adventure yet."

Some final tips from Steven Stoner, who writes from Southampton. He succeeded in classic fashion, that is, with a two-forked prong — a build-up of forces in the south, to take attention away from Morkin in the north. He says, "When travelling, baddies such as ice trolls and wolves are best steered around, as trying to kill lots of these can cause careless loss of life. Avoid taking armies through mountain ranges, which exhausts the troops and renders them useless for battle. Before battle, always *Think* to find out if you are outnumbered, and by how much. If the odds look favourable, go for it (bearing in mind earlier comments about Luxor's presence — *TB*). *Seek* at every village, lith and so on, as it usually proves worthwhile. At the very beginning, try to find the Lord of Shadows, hidden somewhere in the Forest of Shadows, surrounding the tower of the Moon."

Steven finishes by hoping that *Doomdark's Revenge*, the first sequel to *Midnight* will not be too long in appearing — I don't think you're alone there, Steven!

All in all, it seems that, if you plug away at *Lord of Midnight*, success should not be far behind. So many ways of winning present themselves, however, that the game will take a long while to get stale.

Congratulations to all those lucky people who have finished the game — Gregg Reid puts it all down to his reliance on that greatest of all philosophies, "Life is but a cheese pizza".

To finish off, Gregg has a complaint about Beyond Software. "Once I'd completed the game, I phoned the Beyond Hot-Line, tried in vain for a week, and also sent a letter with SSAE. No answer from the phone or the letter." Come on, Beyond, if you're going to hold a competition, you could at least let everyone know how they've done. Many people have bought your game and you should expect to have quite a number of letters about it — don't spoil what is one of the classic games of all time, for any micro!

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This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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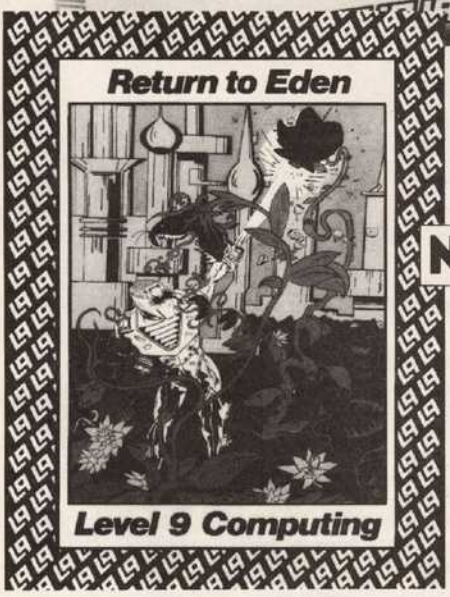

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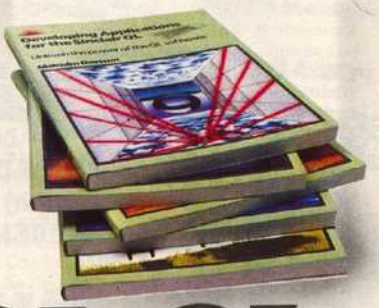

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Immediate run

H Anderson of Edgware, Middlesex, writes:

Q Having recently purchased a 48K Spectrum computer, I notice that most of the commercially produced software starts to run as soon as loading is completed, without the need for Run/Enter. I enjoy writing simple Basic programs and would like to be able to do the same. Can you please advise me on a routine to effect this immediate Run?

A You don't actually need a routine to make a Basic program 'auto-run', the secret lies in the *Save* command used. If you had a program called *Fred* that you wished to auto-run, then you would need to *Save* it using a statement, thus - ; *Save "Fred" Line.*

This would cause the program to *Run*, starting at the first line, immediately on loading.

If you wanted the program to start at a line number other than the first one in the program (say Line 300) then the *Save* statement would be - ; *Save "Fred" Line 300.*

Sales figures

Gerald Jess of Kings Lynn, Norfolk, writes:

Q I am trying to write a program to input sales figures and then print them out under customer, date, etc. What I want to do is dimension the number needed, initialise them and then look for the first empty string so as to put the latest figures in here. Using a Spectrum, I tried *Dim d$(s10):For n=1 To 10:Let d$(n)="" :Next N:For n=1 To 10:If d$(n)"" Then Let d$:(n)="date".*

This doesn't work, why not?

A The Dim statement on the Spectrum, when used with character arrays, needs two parameters.

The first one specifies how many dimensions (occurences) there are, and the second specifies the number of characters occupied by every occurrence.

Thus, in your case you have defined an array *(d$)* of 10 occurences each of 1 character (the default) in length.

The reason that your initialisation routine does not work is that it depends on having a zero length occurence (this is not possible on the Spectrum).

Normal string variables do not have a length defined for them, and they can therefore grow and shrink according to the needs of your program. Arrays, however must have a length associated with them, and that length never changes (no matter what the contents).

Right and left

J R Thompson of Warrington, writes:

Q Because the Spectrum doesn't have a *Right$* facility, I am having problems with one line of a program that I am copying from another computer's listing. Could you please explain how *Right$* works on the Spectrum, as I can't even grasp what is written in the manual about it?

The statement I am trying to convert is *x=10*(Asc (A$-64)+Val (Right$(A$ 1))*

A As you quite rightly point out, the Spectrum does not have a *Right$* (or *Left$*) facility. You will need to make use of the To operator. This allows you to specify a 'slice' of a string to be worked on, eg, Let *A$=B$(4 TO 5)* puts characters *4* and *5* of *B$* into *A$.*

To simulate *Right$* you need to code the appropriate *TO* clause, eg *Let A$=Right$(B$,3)* —takes the last three characters of B$ and puts them in A$. This is written as: *Let A$=B$((Len B$)–3 TO Len B$).* To produce the effect of Left$, you write Let A$=B$(TO 5)—this takes the first five characters of B$.

The statement you wish to convert could therefore be written as: *Let x=10*(Asc(A$)–64)+ Val(A$)–1 TO Len A$).*

Aerial signals

Stephen Coupland of Thanet, Kent, writes:

Q I would like to know how I can make an Aquarius and a black and white television send signals from an ordinary aerial. I would also like to know if I can do this without a modem or acoustic coupler?

A In order to send (or receive) signals from a computer, you need a modem. Either the direct connection, or acoustic coupler type will do for the purpose. The computer will also need an RS 232 interface. I don't know of any one who markets such an interface for the Aquarius I'm afraid. Until one appears, you will not be able to use your machine to communicate with others.

Program converter

C Billingham of Birmingham, writes:

Q I have an Epson HX20, and my problem concerns converting programs for other computers to run on my computer. On some of the programs the *Poke* statement is used for such things as *Pokeing* the computer's clock, or setting the screen.

Could you please tell me if there is some way of getting these addresses? Is there a command statement that will return these addresses using a *Print Chr$* statement or something like that?

A Trying to convert programs which include *Poke* (or *Peek*) statements is a very tricky business. As well as having to understand exactly what the purpose of each of these statements is, you need to know what the equivalent one is on the Epson (if indeed there is one).

However, if we assume that you are able to determine the function of particular *Poke* statements, then you will need to know exactly where the important addresses are in your machines memory.

I am afraid that the computer will not be able to tell you what these addresses are, so you will have to discover them yourself. A good source of information would be the *Complete Technical Manual for the HX20* which is obtainable from your Epson dealer priced at £27.

Royalty payments

T C Whalley of Peterborough, writes:

Q In the advertisement for *White Lightning*, it makes the point that we can market games without paying royalties. Does that mean that if another system is used (such as The Quill) we have to pay royalties to the software house supplying the games generator?

A As far as *The Quill* is concerned Gilsoft who market it only ask that an acknowledgement is made on any game produced, mentioning *The Quill.* No royalties are then payable. Most other games generators however do not state this, implying that any software produced would be liable to royalty claims.

Your question actually raises an important question in terms of copyright. If you use a compiler to produce a faster version of a Basic program, are you liable to have to pay royalties to the compiler supplier? In the world of commercial data processing, the answer is no.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem *Peek* it to Phil Rogers and every week he will *Poke* back as many answers as he can. The address is *Peek & Poke, PCW,* 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD

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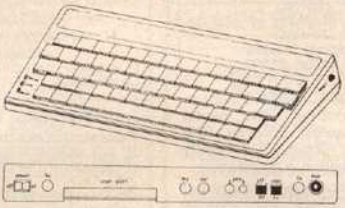

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ACORN ELECTRON & tape rec. & 2 ass. lang. prog. books. & s/w "Chudrie Egg" & every p.c.w. since 5/8/82 & other mags & back-up copies games, boxed w. manuals & leads. Sell £260.00 or £280.00 w. b/w portable. £710.00 p&p. Tel: Billingham 551049 (after 4pm Peter).

BBC 'B' tape recorder & s/w inc. Hobbit, & Zalaga. Still under g'tee. Worth over £500. £375 o.n.o. Tel: Exeter 75839.

BBC Model B 1.2OS, Graphics Rom, Joystics, lots of games, etc. £350. 01-300 7384.

BBC Model B 1.2 os with B&W t.v. cassette recorder, Seikosha printer, speech synthesizer, Eprom programmer plenty of software and paper included. £650 or may split. Tel: Bicester (0869) 243563.

ACORN Atan, 8k & 12k ram, all leads & manual, over £40 s/w £55. Tel: 01-521 1058.

BBC B, 1.2 os, books & games (about 25 originals) dustcover, magazines, six month old, excellent condition, only £350 or swap for CBM64 with CZN and disc drive excellent condition only. Tel: (0924) 253261. Mark Bramley.

BBC Micro — lots of s/w (original) & tape deck. quick sale £300. Tel: 407 6647.

BBC & s/w & books, DFS fitted £400. 40-80 switchable disk drive for BBC & ask s/w. £150. Tel: Houghton-le-Sprey 849342.

BBC titles inc: Frack, Mr Wield, Fortress, Cylon Attade, Hunch Back & Mary Otten. (All originals) £4 each. Tel: 512 790 (Bristol)

ACORN ELECTRON Mint condition. Inc: £100 & s/w £160. Ted Flitwick 715898 After 6pm.

WANTED compute with disk and word processing s/w. Tel: 0253 256 79.

ACORN ELECTRON & interface & joystick & recorder & subs. & books & loads of software swap for BBCB 1.2os or best commodore 64 ofer. Phone 021 742 1446 after 6pm ask for Nick.

BBCB software for sale including canyon, spitfire, killer gorilla, BD bomb alley. All original condition. Half shop prices or £15 the lot. For details ring Eddie on Telford 580614 anytime.

BBC 'B' DFS, ATPL Rumboard, £385 ono Acordn teletext adaptor, immaculate, £175 ono. Microware double density DSF-kit £85 ono. Wordwise rom 1 manual (original) £25. Acorn Electron, excellent condition, £165 ono. Watford DSF-kit £85. Canterbury 750600.

BBC model B 1.2 o/s & view file, view calc. assorted s/w & joystick £230 ono. or £250 & spectrum 48. Tel: 01-527 3719.

SIDEWAYS Rom board for BBC £30 ono. Tel: (01) 603 9315.

Spectrums for sale

SPECTRUM 48K Kempston Joystick Fuller keyboard also software inc Scrabble Hobbit Valhalla etc. Also Micronet Interface. Offers! – Phone 041-357 1886 after 6 p.m.

ONE 48K SPECTRUM plus competition Pro Joystick and literature and software for only £75 – Telephone Ashtead 77314.

48K SPECTRUM CASSETTE. Alphacom Printer. Kenpston Joystick Quickshot. 80 tapes Business programing games, £225. Brother EP22 Typewriter/printer compltete with RS232 interface. Tasword Masterfile, £150. – Phone Iaian Livingston (0506) 34497.

ZX SPECTRUM 48K, Profi keyboard, Data REcorder, Alphacom 32 printer, approx £650 software, can split printer and data recorder, £300 o.n.o. – 93 Norton STreet, Grantham, Lincs.

48K SPECTRUM + printer + currah speech + Kenpston Interface + cassette recorder and software. Swapn for CBM 64 or sell for £220. – Tel Romford 69591.

48K SPECTRUM, Kempston Interfaace, Quickshot Joystick, tape recorder, computer case, Currah-n-Speech, 30 games originals. £200 or swap for other computer. – Tel Burth Heat 51121.

SPECTRUM 48K hardware and software for sale, with Amstrad colour includes speech, printer, light pen, etc. £250 or software. Selling cheap! (everything). – Tel. Paul (0582) 3731.

48K SPECTRUM with printer, printer paper, interface 2 with 2 joysticks, £250 worth of latest software and tape recorder worth over £600. Sell for only £350. – Phone 01-853 3247 after 5 p.m.

48K SPECTRUM approx £300 software + magazines, 1 years makers guarantee left, softwre includes quill, flight simulation, match point and scuba dive. Fully boxed the lot £160. – Tel: (0376) 43543 evenings.

300 SPECTRUM originals to sell – Phone Stuart on Bathgate (0506) 56478 or write to 92 Whitelaw Drive, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 1RJ.

FULL THROTTLE for 48K Spectrum. Brand new £3.95 – Tel: (022 16) 4357.

48K SPECTRUM + WH Smith joystick interface 2. Boxed joystick interface. S/w worth £100 all originals. All under guarantee. £180. – Tel: 01-517 2795.

48K SPECTRUM ZX Currah micro speech, Kempston joystick interface, £450 of s/w, good condition, £125. – Tel: 01-556 9199.

48K SPECTRUM, lead an manual ZX printer 10 rolls of paper, Kempston

joystick with interface and general books, games and mags, inc The Hobbit, £150. – Tel: Mersham 5672 evenings.

48K SPECTRUM Joystick interface, B+W tv, £240 of s/w all originals (Jetset Willy) many mags (PCN, Which Micro) worth £470+, accept £250+. – Tel 12.30-4 p.m. Wed/Thursday 800-6397. J. Bell.

SPECTRUM s/w to sell, Fighter Pilot, Oracles Cave, £450, Bulls Eye £1.00, Learn to Read I £5.50. – Tel: Brain 5958840.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale. All originals, inc. Aquaplane, Terror Devil, Devils of the Deep (£4.50) 30 Tanx, Nitelite etc (£3) or swap any 8 for Currah Speech Unit. – Phone Pelsall 683375.

48K SPECTRUM Ser. 3, as new, boxed with manuals and leads. S/w including Jetpac, Vu Calc. Ferguson recorder sell for £120. – Tel 061-428 2209 after 6 p.m.

48K SPECTRUM GAMES for sale, 20 titles mostly Arcade style, but some adventures, £30 for lot or £2.50 each. – Nottingham 782299.

SPECTRUM S/W/ Fighter Pilot, £3, Picturesque Editor Assembler and monitor, both microdrive compatible, £8, Zip Compiler £2, Wanted Lynx s/w, – Contact Hugh, Glebe House, Royal Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

SPECTRUM Currah Speech Unit plus Zon-X 3-channel sound generator in original boxes with manuals. Swap both for your ZX printer some condition. – Tel: 0532 658247 evenings (David).

48K SPECTRUM in mint condition with Valhalla, Tense French, Manic Miner, Jetpac, Tranzam, Inca Curse, Trans lower, Buggobo, Jet Set, StopSecret etc, worth £210 and still under guarantee, only £119 or swap for Commodore 64. – Tel: 01-837 3817.

48K SPECTRUM £200 of all original s/w i.e. Jet Set willy, TLL, Antics, light Ren, Joystick + Kempston lite all £160 o.n.o. – Tel: 01-443 0273 Paul.

SPECTRUM 48K, professional keyboard, printer, spare rolls, programmable joystick, interface, Quickshot s/w, mags, £180 – Tel: Capthorne 714721.

FOR SALE Spectrum software, Valhalla £8, White Lightning £8, both used only once. Advanced machine language book by Melbourne House, brand new £3.50. – phone Simon on (0742) 661671.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale, Vu-Calc, Vu-file and Biorhythms, all new and unopened, £2.50 :incl. P&P) each or all three for £6 inclusive. – Write to K.L. Chan, 9 Commarket, Thames, Oxon OX9 3DX.

SPECTRUM JET SET WILLY for sale £2.50 – Tel: 0532 657038. Ask for Andy.

48K SPECTRUM, printer, Kempston Joystick, tape recorder, lots of software, mainly games + 2 books cost new £380, sell for £200. – Tel: 075782-278.

CURRAH SPEECH UNIT with tape £18, The Quill £8 for ZX Spectrum. – Tel: 01-809 1213.

48K SPECTRUM + printer + books and mags, Tapes and games, £140. – Tel: 0843 28480.

48K SPECTRUM + s/w + compatible cassette £95. – 05542 50810.

SPECTRUM 48K complete with printer, DK Light Pen, Currah Speech, Kempston Joystick and interface + over £100 worth of s/ware inc. Jetman, Sasne Willy, originals only, worth £360. Sell for £220. – Tel 021-459 1921 evenings only.

SPECTRUM S/WARE + books for sale incl. all the best games and utilities for half price (originals only). – David 0236-29808.

SPECTRUM 48K software: Jakc and the Beanstalk, Theradactyle 4d, Snowmen, £16 the lot or £5.50 each. All the originals. – Tel: Jason on 01-524 0538 after 4 p.m.

48K SPECTRUM; Kempston Joystick and Printer interfaces; Viscount interface and Disc drive; Stack light rifle; much software £250 can demonstrate – 0530 36843.

SPECTRUM 48K in very good condition plus software including Hisoft Pascal and Devpac, plus books including complete Spectrum ROM disassembly, £110 o.n.o. – Tel: 0721 21340.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale all originals Hungry Horace, Road Racears, PacMan, Pool and Horace Goes Skiing, cost me £30, any one £3, two for £5. – Tel: Tatsfield 9938 812.

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM 48K + all leads and manuals new in box plus interface 2 new + Planteoids cartride and 20 other programmes incl. Valhalla Snowman JSW, £140 o.n.o. – 0582 866124.

COMPLETE SPECTRUM system for sale. 48k Issue Three computer, interface one, microdrive, two cartridges, ZX printer and paper, many programs including Pystron and Valhalla, £220.– Phone Thames 2873 (evenings).

48K SPECTRUM GC + tape recorder £100 of s/w Atric Attact, Magic Minor, £175 – 01-731 0360 after 6 p.m.

SPECTRUM S/W to sell: games incl. Mugsy, Valhalla, Trushman, Quicksilva Games designer + Mary Mole. – Tel: Oxford 66677.

SPECTRUM 48K boxed, excellent condition, £600 worth s/w mags £750, sell £225. – Tel: 0324 554551.

SPECTRUM 48K (four) new and boxed still guaranteed £125, four auto load units will load program from tape on power on £35. Ideal for exhibition displays. – Tel: 0772 633325 (evns).

SPECTRUM 48K carry case, programable Joystick and interface, magazines, books plus over £90 or original software, £160 – Phone Epsom 29375.

48K ZX SPECTRUM printer, 15 rolls of paper, Currah speech unit, £50, original s/w, bks, £150o.n.o. – Notts ;6;2 384126.

48K SPECTRUM + £75 or original s/w. sound cones from TV, boxed, good condition. – Tel: 01-203 0846 after 7 p.m. Anmol Malhofrn (Hendon area;.

SPECTRUM 48K DK Tronics keyboard, ZX printer + 5 rolls of paper, programable joystick interface, Quickshot II, some s/w, mags, £180 – Tel Copthorne 714721.

48K SPECTRUM guaranteed, cassette recorder, Kempston interface, point master joystick, mags, £100 of s/w (original) incl. Hobbit, Def Set Willy, £280, £185 o.n.o. – Tel: Boton 27403.

SPECTRUM 48K plus 19 original games in good condition, games include Match Point and The Hulk, sell for £110 o.n.o. or swap for Atari 600LX – Tel: Wendover (0296) 62342.

SWAP Spectrum 48K, Joystick interface, recorder, software, dust cover, book (computer still under guarantee) for C.B.M. 64 (must be within guarantee) with or without extras. – Phone Douglas on 907 1204.

48K SPECTRUM + interface II + portable television, Joystick, Cartridges and stacks of tapes. Sell for £200 – Tel: 05827 69152.

SPECTRUM 48K, Quickshot Joystick + interface, tape recorder + 5 games, £125 – Tel: 0702 75784.

SPECTRUM 48K s/w originals for sale. as new £3 each. – Phone P. White, Epsom 21936 room 24.

16K SPECTRUM all manuals and leads issue one £50 o.n.o. 80k Add on for issue one, £20 o.n.o. – Hatfied (07072) 67455.

16K SPECTRUM for sale! A bargain at £60, hurry! and you get a free radio brand new! that can pick up all stations on earth! – Phone Conn (01-868 4124).

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale. Tower of Euil, Redweed, Hobbit, McKensie, Lord of Time, Orc, Attack, Mad Martha I and II, P-Position, A-W Pet, Brad Blasts, Lazer Zone, etc. – Phone Steve (0703) 767580.

16K SPECTRUM + 32K fitted + Quickshot Joystick + Kemston interface + software, worth £200 total cost price £350, asking £200. – Contact Mr Reece, 55 Forest Road, Edmonton, London N9.

SPECTRUM adventure games for sale. Inca Curse, Castle, Magic Mountain, Pharaoh's Tomb, Orion, Oracles cave, Black Crystal, Volcanic Dungeon, all originals, £20. – Gray, 87th Tower Drive, Midton, Gourock, Inverclyde, Scotland.

SPECTRUM S/W for sale: Lords of Midnight, Black Crystal and Sword Fight, all in excellent condition, £15 or may split. All originals only. – Tel: Caerphilly (0222) 861235 after 6 p.m. Ask for Paul.

48K SPECTRUM, interface 1, 2 microdrives, 17 full cartridges, fuller orator, Currah Microspeech, plus cassettes. Worth over £500. Sell for £250 (upgrading) – Write to DErek Scott, 26D Harden Place, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

48K SPECTRUM Fuller FDS keyboard, Fuller master unit, cassette, over £300 of software, books mags, sell for £250 or swap for Amstrad CPC 464 & colour monitor. – Tel: Fillongley (994) 41874.

ZX SPECTRUM hardware for sale. Includes Cambridge Joystick interface, Currah Speech. Original softwre also available. Abersoft Forth, New Generation MC Tutor. Offers to: D.J. Iannetta, 52 Finavaon Pl., Dundee DD4 9DY or Phone (0382) 43183.

UNUSED 48K SPECTRUM upgrade kit from Watford Electronics and other computer chips for sale. – Ring John 01-529 5402 after 6 p.m.

48K SPECTRUM or for swap electronic keyboard, joystick or joystick interface, £80 of original s/w. 6 months old or swap CBM 64 with tape deck. – Tel: Slough 44764.

48K SPECTRUM Interface 2. microline + 4 cartridges cassette recorder + 12 software tapes incl. Hobbit, Flag, etc. £235 o.n.o. – 0532 869425 MIR.

SPECTRUM S/W tosell from Ultimate, Sunshine, Sinclair, Silver Soft + magazines on tape. Also Spectrum manual + Into to Booklet. 3 tapes given for complete ROM disassembly. – Tel: Jason 0685 841561.

48K SPECTRUM Microdrive interface 2, 4 cartridges, Alpha comp printer, Kemspton Joystick, over £30 books, £200 s/w. All originals £300 o.n.o. – Tel: Hnedsford 76368.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale. Les Flics £4, 3rd Vortex £4, Black Crystal £5, Love Quiz £3. All originals. Others available from Mr Keith Burton, 6 Westbourne Terrace, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale: Escape 3D Tunnel, Morris and Bikers, all £2 each or all three for £5. Moon Alert £3. All perfect condition and originals. – Phone 0763 61392 after 5 p.m.

COMPUTER SWAP

Computer Swap entries are limited to 30 words. Either fill in the accompanying form and send to Computer Swap. *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD or telephone 01-437 4343.

All software offered through computer swap must be in original condition and for private sale only.

It cannot be swapped.
Warning: It is illegal to advertise pirated software.

COMPUTER SWAP

Please write your copy in capital letters on the lines below.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Dragons for sale

DRAGON 32 Cassette recorder, joystick, cartridge game + 10 cassetts including the king. Fully working. Also programmers reference guide worth over £200 sell for £100 phone (evenings) (0622) 45258.

DRAGON GAMES All original dragon trek £5 cosmic zap, Alcatraz II M&TM, Cuthbert Jungle, Mines Eight Ball £4 or sell lot for £20. Tel Wideopen 364304 (David) after 6pm.

DRAGON 32 Tape recorder and book as new £95 Tel David 01-980 4888 Ext 252.

DRAGON 32,3 joystick Tape recorder, books an assembly language + Basic etc. Substantial S/W library, Assembles + disassemble. mags, £100 of Arcade games (originals) G.C. Leads. £150. ono Tel: 04012 2157 e. Yorkshire.

DRAGON 32, joystick, 3 games one year old Hardley used. Tel: Southend 559511

DRAGON 32 Software, Pub crawl £4 and all because £4, T/an old £4 mined out £3, chess cartridge £14, Physics tutor £3. If all bought for 32 You get free DRA/Book. Tel : 01-366 5944.

DRAGON Books, six assort inc. introducation to MC plus 60 progs for The Dragon, + books about learning to use the dragon cost £35 sell for £15 Halifax 249955 Paul.

DRAGON 32 + £300 of S/W (original) all boxed, excellent condition £175. Tel: Chandlers Ford - 60 745 eves.

FOR Quick Sale Dragon software and accessories at 33% original cost e.g. telewriter £16.50, joystick £5 Printer lead £5, Sanyo recorder £8 dasmindemon £10 Games cassettes £2.50 Tel. (0532) 672534

DRAGON 32 Software for sale all originals, all perfect, microdeals, morrision PSS. etc. All half price 'ghost attack' cartriage £6, Brentwood 211710 (Essex).

DRAGON 32, tape recorder, perfect working order. Tel: 021 502 0507.

DRAGON 32 BOXED, recorder, leads, manual joystick, £220 + of s/w (21) edit and DASM aldering + chess cartridge, pen, books, all DU mags to 84. £160 ono. 0895 441610.

DRAGON 32, CASSETTE recorder, games. Sell for £160. Tel: Hoddleston 442202.

DRAGON 32 — 8 months old. £155 of original s/w. 2 joysticks. Cassette recorder. Light pen books + Dragon User magazines. The lot £150 ono. Tel: 01-552 3276 after 6pm + w/e.

DRAGON software for sale. Franklins Tomb, Quest, Phantom, Pettigrews, Kriegspiel, Chuckie, Leggit, Frogger, Space Traders, Dragon Trek, all £4 each, or £35 the lot. P. Bonner, 20 Tamar Grove, Stafford ST17 9SL.

DRAGON 32 + over £150 of s/w. Joysticks (3), DASM Hi-Res, voice synthesiser cartridges, light pen, t/ recorder, dustcover, mags + books. Total value over £450. Sell for £180 only. Tel: Craig Wickford 65351 before someone else buys it after 6

DRAGON 32 Atari joystick & Dragon tamer, magazines, machine code book, dustcover, + software. Less than year old. £140. Tandy CGP-115 printer. £99. Together for £230. Both boxed Tel: 01-360 3443

DRAGON 32 complete with joysticks £150.00 worth of software £175.00 Tel: Norwich 419044

DRAGON 32, Siekosha printer, wordprocessor plus books and manuals plus £280 worth of software joystick and data recorder total worth around £650 offers around £290 Telephone: Bath (0225) 311774.

DRAGON DOS for sale £50 ono or swap for premier DOS or modem or anything Dragon related phone Peter at Antrim 65345

DRAGON 32 leads books joystick cassette recorder, mags, telewriter graph drawer decode personal finance etc no games £100 for quick sale Tel: Waltham Cross 29932.

DRAGON 32 with £150 software pair joysticks books complete set of Dragon user magazines all in mint condition £165 ono telephone 0942 876175 after 6pm.

DRAGON +3 joysticks, light pen, magazines, dust cover and software. Less than one year old. £150. Tandy CGP-115, colour, graphics printer + Dragon lead £95. Together £240. Tel: 01-360 3443.

Wanted

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE to sell or swap. Including Sabre Wulf, Orc Attack, Moon Alert, Mugsy, Night Gunner, Jet Set Willy, Orbiter, and ultimate games. Phone Geoff on Basingstoke (L0256) 53497 anytime.

SWAP MY CGLM5 computer with Basic 1 and Basic G, plus Datex recorder, for your Atari 400 48K prefered, with recorder exchange my Lazer 200 computer for Atari Roms. St Austell (0726) 63501.

SWAP PHILLIPS G7000 videopac games computer with five games good condition for 48K Spectrum no software needed or will sell £50 quid ono Tel: 7496053 ask for Dave.

SWAP ZX PRINTER for Fuller Master unit or Currah Micro Speech. Write to D Scott, 26D Harden Place, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland TD9 7BY (8 rolls paper included).

SWAP 6 × 3 snooker table plus cues and pool balls for printer compatible with Vic 20. or offers ring Paul on S.O.S. 0702 540452.

WANTED ATARI 850 interface module. Good cash paid. Tel: 0664 61792.

DRAGON 32 joysticks £100 worth of s/w + books. Will swap for 48K Spectrum Cirencester 61787.

SWAP T199/4A for Spectrum or ZX81 CBM 64 + keyboard. Tel: 01 555 9571.

WANTED ZX81 RS 232 unit with cask preferably memotech £20 ono M. Rowland 22 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2 5EA.

WANTED fully expanded Acorn Atom circa £40. Will by software if available 0656 722 306.

WANTED Mulk, swap for sabre wulf or vahalla selling jetman doomsday castle, chucke egg, T.LL Android 2 Classic, Adventure £2.75 other available phone Polegate 4336 (After 1 pm)

WANTED Atari 800 or similar will pay up to £80 Ring Honiton 41484.

SWAPZX81 With 16K Ram-Pack, leads, software and instruction manual for colour protable TV or monitor phone livingston (0506) 32657 after 4 pm.

SWAPSpectrum 48K issue 2 boxed plus RS 232 inteface, original programms plus possible cash adjustment, plus BBC B 1 2 O/S Tel: (0865) 777510 after 6.30 pm.

SWAP Two scale model cars for radio control in exchange for CBM 64 S/W or peripheral or even sell £25 each phone Keith Scunthorpe. 851132.

WANTED 48K Spectrum nothing else req'd also wanted Acorn electron software and penpal with electron in Birmingham age 13+ I am 16 phone 021-742-1446 after 6 p.m. ask for Nick please.

WANTED Somewhere in ireland second hand or age or quickshot joystick plus interface would like interface II can collect in some areas phone seamus (0502) 23503 after six.

WANTEDModel B BBC micro Tel 949/7464.

WANTEDSoft switch cartridge for VIC20 pay up to £10 ring Hortley Spring - 84-6790.

48K SPECTRUM Tel 021 742 1440 (after 6 p.m.)

WANTED 48K Spectrum + electron S/W. Tel: 021 1446 after 6 p.m.

SWAPAcorn electron + cassette recorder + £100 S/W. All leads + terminals 300ks but lower for BBC model B or best CBM64 Tel: 021 742 1446 after six.

WANTED Spectrum 48K or CBM 64 with s/w for TI 99/4A or full colour dark room or both if with many extras. Cash adjustment if possible. Tel: Lymington 0590-78268.

WANTED. Rabbit software games for Vic20 unexp./3K/8K/16K and Commodore 64. Send list to DAVE WOODWARD, 45, Stonerwood Ave., Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0AX. No copies please.

WANTED. Hell gate for the Commodore 64. £3 cash paid. Contact DAVE, 45, Stonerwood Ave., Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0AX.

CBM OWNER seeks beginners to swop tips with. I have tape, disk drive & modem (CBM). 7 back issues of PCW & others. Tel: 01-748 8178.

WANTED. 48K Spectrum. Must be under guarantee & with all leads. Will consider all offers. Phone Maldon (0621) 5945 (after 6pm).

WANTED ZX81 With memoteck 64K RAM-PACK will pay £40 o.n.o. also ZX81 with Sinclair 16K wanted: phone 01-733 7188 anytime.

SWAP Cordless phone brande new boxed guaranteed cost £145 for Atari 1020 printed plotter in very good consition please write to Z. Pere 91 Highfield Ave. London NW.11

WANTED: A-Bert for coleco. must be in v.g. condition will pay £15 to £17.50 write to W.L. tang 6, north Farm Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 9B8.

WANTED 200 Channel CB Radio for electronic project. must be brand new and in full working order. send full details to T.P. Richards, 39 cotman Walk Lockleaze Bristol BS7 9UG

'OMNIS' Apple Data base man system original software with light licence transfer £200 or swap apple CCs 7710 serial interface details 0491 874117.

Z80 Driven Data entry pad as new retails £689 only £250 or swap BBC Micro or other hardware, software details 0491 874117.

WANTED 48K Specturm or BBC Tel: 0303 59897.

WANTED 48K Spectrum Tel: 021 742 1446 after 6pm.

WANTED: Complete collections of computing or electronic mags. Preferably recent home study courses. Phone Charles. Tel:041 883 9264

WANTED: CBM 64 willing to pay up to £100 or £120 with C2N tape recorder. Tel: 741256 (Maldon)

SWAP Quickshot 2 with DK Tronics interface plus money and/ or software for alphacom 32 printer. Sell Nuway masterplug for £5 or include in SWAP. Phone Hon on 01-854 8561.

WANTED Thunderbirds fireball XL5 supercar stingray the Beatles etc anything models toys games Richard Joynson 110 Courtland Av Ilford Essex

WANTED: Full size keyboard for spectrum, must be good condition, in exchange for orginal software. Please write with details to. Mr G P Craig, 19 Finlow Terrace Fintry Dundee DD4 9NQ

TDS 84 is a telephone directory system for CBM 64 with a disk drive. Store upto 2000 names, phone numbers, and addresses. Fast search on phone number or name. Original program for only £20 Tareef al Attar – PO Box 1429, SAFAT Kuwait. 435892

WANTED: CBM 64 with cassette recorder will swap for 48k spectrum, interfaced stack light rifle, recorder and software plus mags and books. – Tel 0705 263 076 (after 6 pm)

WANTED: by unemployed electronic engineer any computer junk (ie boards, components, etc). Can pay postage, please help keep me sane! – Tel 0934 513492 ask for Richard

SWAP Sanyo sportster stereo dolbynr metal tape inc FM tuner pack earphones two speakers with built in amps for modem or speech module for Dragon. – Tel HX 247456

SWOP my aquarius computer system, 5 items, boxed and brand new, for 35mm photographic equipment, cameras, lenses, etc. – Phone Farningham 862456 evenings

SWAP 48k Spectrum, all leads, cassettes recorder, 8 original games, DKTronics, Interface Kempston convertible for Commodore, 64 preferably with C2N. – Tel 0224 871957

WANTED Spectrum Penpal, to swap Hints, tirs, and games. Interested! write to: Steve, 377, Winchester Road, Bassett, Sutton, SO1 7DJ, Hants or Phone (0703) 767580

SINCLAIR ZX81 16k Wanted £35. Selling 50 top Spectrum progs at ½ price eg forth £4.50 Hunter killer £4 phone or write 733484 145 Bryncyn Cardiff

WANTED Spectrum 48k. Will pay £60-70. Printer. Joystick, Microdrive. Write to E Van Derknaap. VUUNSE DREEF 75 – 3 73gks – Hollandsche Rading – Holland. – Tel 02157 1429

HELP! wanted – plans 1515 printer C won't supply – can you help. – Tel 01-840 3610

SELL OR SWAP BBC B Computer with extras for commodore 64 plus extras or commodore 64 plus money or £350 no offers. – Tel 051-263 3334 ask for Stuart

JUST PURCHASED Cumana Delta system disk drive for my Dragon 32. Any help or tips would be appreciated. – Tel Staines 58107 after 6 pm

FED UP with no software swop my Vic 20, 24k, C2N, cheapo printer, mother board, manuals and books for your QL. – Tel 01-986 2266 after 8 pm

WANTED: Amstrad software books, tapes etc. Ring Darlington (0325) 84357 or write to A A McCammont 11 Rivergarth, Darlington Co. Durham DL1 3SJ

32k VIC2 + C2N + Joystick, intro to Basic & books and mags. Swap 48k spectrum. Andy 01 841 0675 after 5 pm

SWAP Premier data, tape disc cassette (Original) for similiar program for Dragon 32. – Tel Staines 58707 after 6 pm

10 Original tapes of spectrum s/h Inc: Atec Atac, Scuba dive. Exchange for 2X printer or other Spectrum accessories. – Tel 01-693 2961

WANTED Dot Matrix Printer using A4 papert compatable with 2+ spectrum £100. Age immaterial – Philip 0277 224320

SWAP or sell my Phillips Video recorder (New). £300 secures or exchange best computer offered tel 0793 641110. 9 am till 6 pm (Swindon)

WANTED Modem for CBM 64, Direct correct, any considered. – Ring 01-748 8178

WANTED BBC must be in good working order around £200. – Tel Dorking 881619

For sale

ORIC-1 48K plus MCP40 Printer 8 books £200 software including Xenon-1 forth hunchback Ultra H-attack all in very good condition and guarnateed only £170 ono Wendover (0296-624121)

FOR SALE ZX80 Boxed with all leads and power supply £15 o.n.o. phone Maldon (0621) 59452 after 6.00 p.m.

FRIDEN Felxwriter, electric typewriter, Printer and tape punch. Not ASC II Code but convertible heavy, boyer collects £10. Tel: 021-429 9171

BROTHER EP44 Thermal Printer/ Typewriter, letter quality with RS232 interface unused £230 or swap for Epson or other matrix printer in V.good condition Tel 021 429 9171

TI-99 PLUS Extended basic, parsec tombstove city, cassette leads, TV basic o.n.o. Write 92a The Avenue, Ramsey Cambs. or phone Ramsey 813877 after 6 pm.

VISION'S Snooker for the Acron Electron for sale only £6.95 Tel: (0223(832164

JETSET WILLY £3.50 Hunter Killer £5.50 Tel: Eardisley (05446) 202 After 7pm.

CRAZY CAVE MEN, Everest Ascent for sale Tel: 01 748 8178

LYNX 48K Boxed as new plus software including assembler, disassembler, extended basic, scrolling screen program and many mchine code and basic games £135 Tel: Stirling (0786) 841731.

OIRC MCP 40 unused and boxed £100 ono or swap for Dragon soft or hardware. Ring After 5.30, Stanley, County Durham 39431.

ORBIS Home Computer Course complete parts in Binders £18 o.n.o. after 7 p.m. 021 772 6891

ORIC I 48K, leads, manual. P.S.U. cassettes. £50. Tel: 0895 832147.

BASIC MATTE Intellivision System Cartridges Best Offer. Tel: 0895 832147.

QL ATT-SERIES No dougle. £380, ono. 2 months old. Purelle interface £40. 1 month old. Tel: Tony 578 7704 after 7pm.

ZX PRINTER 8 rolls of paper £34. 0302 722669. Nick.

SEKOISHA GP100A, Graphics Printer with Kempston Interface + paper for use with Spectrum £230. Tel: (0632) 581521 eves.

COLECOVISION + steering wheel + 5 games £100. Intellivision + voice + 10 games £100. Tel: 01-267 0055.

ALPHACOM 32 printer — 4 months old + 1 roll of paper. Spectrum Compatible will deliver within a reasonable radius. £43.00. Tel: Shrewsbury 59356.

ZX MICRODRIVE, Interface I, 5 cartridges + ZX printer. £100 ono. Tel: 01-874 4221.

SHARP MZ 80A 48k enscroll monitor + cassette, 34 utilities, 8 games, 6 tape starter pack, manual + books £350. ono. Tel: 0903 690370 eve + weekends.

14 IN COLOUR monitor Microvitech £150. Tel: 881-3501.

MACHINE LANGUAGE monitor cartridge (VIC-20) brand new — unwanted gift, best offer secures. Tel: 01-366 7115.

THREE BOOKS, under guarantee, Oric I, 5 s/w games, all leads, very good condition £100 ono. Tel: 4965 Cannock Beds.

SENSORY 9 chess computer. Cost £165 open to offers. Tel: 0302 49475.

ATARI soft, Donky King, Robtron, Miss Pac Man, Pole position for CBM 64 will pay up to £13 each for originals. – Tel Wraysbury 2518 after 7 pm

ADVENTURE HELPLINE

Hobbit on Commodore 64. How do you escape with the treasure from the dragon without being burnt to a crisp? George Macellaro, Dental Centre, Roberts BKs, Osnabrück, BFPO 36.

Voodoo Castle on Vic20. I have got so far as circling the coffin to wake up the Count, but I am unable to find the doll to finally complete the adventure. Any hints would be greatly appreciated. David Shpherdson, 3 Tarn Villas, Cowpasture Road, Ilkley, W Yorks.

Hobbit on Spectrum. How do you get across the dark river, get past the bulbous eyes and get down the trapdoor? Paul Milne, 52 Exeter Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

Hobbit on Spectrum. What is the right way in the dry cave as to get out of the goblins' dungeon I cannot get my Hobbit to go through the window? I Fitton, 290 Eastern Avenue, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough.

Knights Quest on Spectrum. I cannot get out of the deserted wasteland. I have with me a horse, compass, rope and book. A Blunnie, 24 Rockwood Avenue, Loughton, Essex.

Pharaohs Tomb on Spectrum. How do I get past the magic panel? Debbie Barbé, Vista du Guet, Coboroad, Castel, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Madness and the Minotaur. I have got Vetar but I can't seem to be able to do anything else. S Power, 22 Church Close, Pool in Warfedale, nr Leeds, W Yorks LS21 1CN.

Voodoo Castle on Vic20. How do I get at the raven crying outside the window? Also, how do I get past the laboratory without being killed? Alexander Steeloe, 32 Jubilee Street, London E1.

Hobbit on Commodore 64. How do I stop getting caught after escaping from the goblin's dungeon? I have the ring. Anthony Green, 2 Edgfield Close, Whitchurch, Bristol 4.

Valhalla on Spectrum. Could someone please give me directions from Hellgate to Ofnir. Stephen Balmer, 'Crescent', Mill Road, Inver, Larne, Co Antrim, N Ireland.

Castle of Riddles on BBC. I cannot get out of the maze of jet-black passages. Have I simply gone the wrong way? Nigel Reed, 7 Crownfields, Langford Budville, nr Wellington, Somerset.

Hobbit on Spectrum. How do I get Thorin out of the goblin's mountain? I have the ring and I have got out myself. How do you cross Mirkwood? J E Foley, 156 Collier Row Road, Collier Row, Romford, Essex.

Velnor's Lair on Spectrum. How do I get past the sharks and enter the passage in the pool? R T Sanderson, 29 Feltree Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43.

Alice-in-Wonderland on Memotech. I am lost in Grimbley Forest. How do I get out? Alan Dobson, Flat 1, 200 Stockport Road, Timplerley, Altringham, Cheshire.

Pirate's Cove on Vic20. How do you get past the crocs in the caves on Pirates' Island? Anthony, 84 Wood Lodge Lane, West Wickham, Kent.

Hobbit on Spectrum. I am too thick to find the answers to the riddles and need advice for later on. Please help! Wayne Fletcher, 49 Airedale Road, Darton, Barnsley, S Yorks.

Hobbit on Commodore 64. How do I get out of the Elvenkings' Halls? And how do I reach the window in the goblins' dungeon? Martin D Wileman, 110 Losssiemouth Road, Bishopmill, Elgin, Grampian, Scotland.

Voodoo Castle on Vic20. How do you get through the crack into the wall? A Kingman, 6 Fallowfield, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Espionage Island on ZX—1. I can't get pas the native woman on the grass plain, even with the lucky beads. I've had the game for four months and still can't solve it. Frazer Hay, 8 Grant Street, Culen, Banffshire, Scotland.

SEE
INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE CLUB (CLASSIFIED)

Diary

Event	Dates	Venue	Admission	Organisers
ZX Fair	Oct 6 10.00am-8.00pm	Pudsey Civic Centre Pudsey W Yorks	75p adults 50p children	Northern Premier Exhibitions 0532 552854
Livingston Computer Fayre	Oct 6-7 10.00am-5.00pm	Peel House Ladywell Livingston W Lothian	£1.00 programme	Itec/W Lothian Computer club 0506 39046
Computer Graphics 84 (over 18s only)	Oct 9.10 10.00am-6.00pm Oct 11 10.00am-4.00pm	Wembley Conference Centre	Free in advance £8.00 on door	Online Conferences 01-868 4466
Apricot and Sirius Show North	Oct 16-18 10.00am-6.00pm	New Century Hall New Century House Corporation Street Manchester	Free in advance from organisers	16 Bit Computing Magazine 01-241 2354
Computer Games and Systems Retailer Show (trade only)	Oct 17-18 9.00am-5.30pm	Novotel London W6	Free	Macro Exhibitions 0992 469556
Home Computer Education and Games Fair	Oct 20 12.00pm-8.00pm Oct 21 10.00am-6.00pm	Luton College of Higher Education	£1.50 adults £1.00 children	Shaw and Kilburn 0582 29511
Electron and BBC Micro User Show	Oct 25-27 10.00am-5.00pm Oct 28 10.00am-4.00pm	Alexandra Palace London N22	£3.00 adults £2.00 children	Database Publications 061-456 8383
Home Tech 84	Oct 26-29 10.00am-6.00pm	Bristol Exhibition Centre	£1.50 adults £1.00 children	Nationwide Exhibitions 0272 650465
Computer in Action	Oct 30 10.00 am-6.00pm Oct 31 10.00am-8.00pm Nov 1 10.00am-6.00pm	Anderson Centre Glasgow		Trade Exhibitions 041-204 0280
Mycomp (Thames Valley Personal Computer Exhibition)	Nov 1-3 10.00am-6.00pm Nov 4 11.00am-5.00pm	Fulcrum Centre Slough	£2.00 adults £1.00 children	Swan House Special Events 06323 43866

Top 10

Spectrum

1	(—)	Daley Thompson's Decathlon	(Ocean)
2	(6)	Lords of Midnight	(Beyond)
3	(1)	Tornado Low Level	(Vortex)
4	(5)	Jet Set Willy	(Software Projects)
5	(2)	Fighter Pilot	(Digital Integration)
6	(4)	Rapscallion	(Bug Byte)
7	(7)	Match Point	(Psion)
8	(9)	Sabre Wulf	(Ultimate)
9	(3)	Cavelon	(Ocean)
10	(—)	Full Throttle	(Micromega)

(Figures compiled by W H Smith and Son, London)

ZX81

1	(1)	Alien Raid	(CRL)
2	(4)	Walk the Plank	(Novus)
3	(3)	Krazy Kong	(PSS)
4	(–)	Meteor Storm	(DKTronics)
5	(2)	Planet Raider	(Novus)
6	(–)	Meteoroids	(DKTronics)
7	(–)	Espionage Island	(Artic)
8	(–)	Krypton Ordeal	(Novus)
9	(–)	Flight Simulation	(Psion)
10	(–)	Black Crystal	(Carnell)

BBC B

1	(1)	Fortress	(Pace)
2	(4)	Ghouls	(Micro Power)
3	(5)	Smash and Grab	(Superior)
4	(6)	Spitfire Command	(Superior)
5	(3)	Micro Olympics	(Database)
6	(10)	Mr Wiz	(Superior)
7	(8)	Frenzy	(Micro Power)
8	(7)	Aviator	(Acornsoft)
9	(2)	Wallaby	(Superior)
10	(9)	Stock Car	(Micro Power)

(Figures compiled by W H Smith and Son, London)

Dragon

1	(1)	Up Periscope	(Beyond)
2	(2)	Ring of Darkness	(Wintersoft)
3	(–)	Cuthbert in the Mines	(Microdeal)
4	(3)	Chuckie Egg	(A+F)
5	(–)	Eightball	(Microdeal)
6	(–)	Mr Dig	(Microdeal)
7	(9)	Space Shuttle Simulator	(Microdeal)
8	(–)	Dungeon Raid	(Microdeal)
9	(–)	Buzzard Bait	(Microdeal)
10	(6)	Hungry Horace	(Melbourne House)

Commodore 64

1	(1)	Scrabble	(Leisure Genius)
2	(2)	BMX Racers	(Mastertronic)
3	(–)	Beachhead	(US Gold)
4	(8)	Arabian Knights	(Interceptor)
5	(5)	Hunchback	(Ocean)
6	(–)	Decathlon	(Ocean)
7	(4)	Decathlon	(Activision)
8	(–)	Gilligan's Gold	(Ocean)
9	(7)	Space Walk	(Mastertronic)
10	(10)	Encounter	(HiTech)

Vic20

1	(2)	New York Blitz	(Mastertronic)
2	(5)	Snooker	(Visions)
3	(–)	Flight 015	(Craig Communications)
4	(10)	Mower Mania	(Voyager)
5	(7)	Sub Hunt	(Mastertronic)
6	(–)	Tower of Evil	(Thorn EMI)
7	(4)	Phantom Attack	(Mastertronic)
8	(6)	Crazy Kong	(Interceptor)
9	(–)	Duck Shoot	(Mastertronic)
10	(–)	3D Maze	(Mastertronic)

Books

1	(5)	Introducing Commodore 64 Machine-code	(Granada)
2	(1)	Commodore Programmers Reference Guide	(Pitman)
3	(–)	Guide to Playing the Hobbit	(Melbourne House)
4	(2)	Machine-code Sprites and Graphics on Spectrum	(Sunshine)
5	(5)	Practical Spectrum Machine-code	(Shiva)
6	(8)	Discover Your Spectrum	(Century)
7	(–)	Battle Games	(Usborne)
8	(9)	100 Programs for the BBC Micro	(Prentice-Hall)
9	(–)	Space Games	(Usborne)
10	(–)	Computer Programming for Beginners	(Fontana)

(Figures compiled by Websters/Bookwise)

Book Ends

BUMPER BOOK

Christmas comes but once a year and around now book companies try various ploys to get your money. One such ploy is the 'bumper' book containing a vast mish-mash of previous material from other books.

Obviously it involves no effort on the part of the publishers beyond commissioning a new cover so usually such books are relatively inexpensive. Provided you examine them carefully to check that you don't already have a lot of the material, these books can be a good idea.

The Complete Commodore 64 is one such book; it contains a large guide to programming in Basic, a lot of games to type in with notes and a large section on peripherals like disc drives and printers. There are appendices on hex/dec convertion, the 6502 instruction set and an, inevitably incomplete, list of software.

Book *The Complete Commodore 64*
Price *£9.95*
Micro *Commodore 64*
Supplier *Granada Publishing 8 Grafton Street London W1X 3LA*

GOOD START

Step by Step Programming for the Commodore 64 is the first volume in a guide to the use of basic Commodore commands for calculation, sprite design, peek and poke, and so on.

There are numerous screen shots of what your TV should look like, which is more help than a dozen other ways of helping people understand the information.

In fact, even within volume 1 you are introduced to relative complex techniques, designing sprites screen maps and the like, so it's fairly rich in information.

If the fact that each part of this series is £5.95 doesn't put you off, then this is a pretty good start to Commodore programming.

Book *Step by Step Programming on the Commodore 64*
Price *£5.95*
Micro *Commodore 64*
Supplier *Dorling Kindersley Goldstar 1-2 Henrietta Street London WC2E 8PS*

This Week

Program	*Type*	*Micro*	*Price*	*Supplier*
Star Avengers	Arc	Amstrad	£6.95	Kuma
Outpost	Arc	Atari	£12.95	Quicksilva
Jet Pac	Arc	BBC	£7.95	Ultimate
Lingo	Ed	BBC	£12.95	Cms
Know your Psi Q	Ut	BBC	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Castle of Jasoom	Ad	Commodore 64	£14.95	Quicksilva
Ah Diddums	Arc	Commodore 64	£5.50	Beau Jolly
Ancipital	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.50	Llamasoft
Ant Attack	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Quicksilva
Magic Micro Mission	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Quicksilva
Poster Paster	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	Task Set
See Saw	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Quicksilva
Snowman	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Quicksilva
Strontium Dog	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Quicksilva
Summer Games	Arc	Commodore 64	£14.95	Quicksilva
Attitude of Mind of Da Vinci	Ed	Commodore 64	£2.99	Weirdsoft
Master Mind	Ed	Commodore 64	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Doddle	Ut	Commodore 64	£14.95	Quicksilva
Joffe Plan	Ut	Commodore 64	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Know your own Personality	Ut	Commodore 64	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Your Team	Ut	Commodore 64	£9.95	Marlborough
City Bombing Raid	Arc	Dragon	£2.00	Metior Software
Binary Land	Arc	MSX	£8.95	Kuma
Dog Fighter	Arc	MSX	£6.95	Kuma
Driller Tanks	Arc	MSX	£8.95	Kuma
Eric and the Floaters	Arc	MSX	£5.95	Kuma
Fire Rescue	Arc	MSX	£7.95	Kuma
Database	Ut	MSX	£19.95	Kuma
Home Budget	Ut	MSX	£14.95	Kuma
Wdpro	Ut	MSX	£29.95	Kuma
Out of the Shadows	Ad	Spectrum	£5.95	Mizar Computing
Strontium Dog	Ad	Spectrum	£6.95	Quicksilva
The Final Mission	Ad	Spectrum	£5.50	Incentive
Battlezone	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Quicksilva
Blood and Guts	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Quicksilva
Dishes	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Cataclismia
Psytraxx	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	The Edge
Starbike	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	The Edge
The Journey	Arc	Spectrum	£7.95	Temptation
Zombie Zombie	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Quicksilva
Star Seeker	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Eric Bristow's Pro Darts	S	Spectrum	£6.95	Quicksilva
Joffe Plan	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Know your own Personality	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Master Mind	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Mirrorsoft
Your Team	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Marlborough
Megavault	Arc	Vic20	£5.50	Beau Jolly

Key: Ad — adventure/**Arc** — arcade/**Ed** — education/**S** — strategy-simulation/**Ut** — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

GOLDEN IDOL

Next up for the Commodore from Beyond is *Aztec*, a joystick and keyboard controlled adventure apparently based on Indiana Jones' crowd pulling exploits. As a game it isn't quite like anything else, but reminds me vaguely of *Oracles Cave* on the Spectrum. You control a Jones-like figure (complete with safari suit and cap) and move him around a maze of levels and ladders.

The idea of the game is to find a missing golden idol, hidden somewhere in the maze. The figure can run, jump, crawl, set dynamite, fight, open boxes, etc. There are a variety of nasty things lurking in the depths of the cages including spiders, snakes, dinosaurs and beautifully animated Zulu type warriors.

Although the skills you need to play the game are arcade orientated — fast reactions playing the major part — but there are others, like remembering the levels that end in a void and noticing trapdoors. Certainly the number of events within the game lift it well above the usual level.

Some of the graphics in *Aztec* are astonishing — watch out for the man-eating plant and the tiger — although the actual levels and ladders are very simple, suprisingly so given the complexity elsewhere.

Program *Aztec*
Price *£8.95*
Micro *Commodore 64*
Supplier *Beyond*
Durrent House
8 Herbal Hill
London EC1R 5EJ

INDEPENDENT

Twin Kingdom Valley was one of the very few graphically illustrated adventures that did not originate on the Spectrum — more than that it was not even made available on the machine. Until now.

Bug-Byte describe the Spectrum version as 'the greatest achievement in the history of home computing'. Hmmmm. Well, anyway the program has more pictures than the Commodore 64 version with as much, if not more, detail.

As an adventure *Twin Kingdom* had good, if not ecstatic, reviews. It doesn't understand very complex sentences, but let's you know quite clearly what words it does and does not know, typing help actually lists them out for you.

The graphics are thoughtfully designed with a large, vaguely cartoon-like quality. There are other characters in the adventure who exhibit a certain independence or randomness depending upon your degree of cynicism.

There are 180 different locations in the adventure illustrated with 150 different graphics — in the limited time for wandering about, I discovered enough to get me pretty hooked. But why can't I find flint in a disused flint quarry?

Program *Twin Kingdom Valley*
Price *£7.95*
Micro *Spectrum*
Supplier *Bug-Byte*
1 Stanley Street
Liverpool L16AD

ALIEN ATTACK

Despite the failure of the Dragon machine there are still independent software houses supporting it with quite reasonable software.

Death Valley has the kind of smooth sprite graphics that only seem to have appeared

fairly recently on the Dragon. In this case you get a rather neat alien landscape with spinning planets and puffing volcanoes and — almost inevitably — the Dragon's unenviable yukky green background.

The game looks good but since it consists almost entirely of blasting aliens it can't be said to hold the attention overmuch.

In my first attempt at the game I survived about five alien attack waves.

Still, I never did like alien blasting and it does looks nice. And it looks green.

Program *Death Valley*
Price *£6.50*
Micro *Dragon*
Supplier *Micro Data*
Unit A4
39 Sheridan Road
Frimley
Surrey
GU16 7DU

Pick of the week

ILLEGAL GOODIES

Acornsoft have, quite honestly, been responsible for some of the dullest computer programs I've ever seen.

Until recently their top sellers were tedious versions of *Meteors* and *Invaders*.

Things may be looking up, though, with *Elite*, a program good enough to raise at least half an eyebrow from a Spectrum owner. For one thing it's quite astonishingly complicated — not only do you get a program but also a 65-page manual, a control summary card (thee are a lot) and a 50-page scene setting manual.

The plot involves your zooming through the heavens trading in various goods, fighting off baddies and maybe occasionally taking a chance with some illegal goodies (watch out for the customs though). Using black-on-white line graphics has meant that enough memory is available for a tremendous number of different facilities — there are dozens of different controls for navigation, various charts, combat flight, etc.

The graphics are superb and are animated in 3D in a similar way to *Battlezone* — you can fly around a static spaceship in all dimensions and it's very impressive.

Playing the game involves a quite incredible number of different considerations, each of the ships you may meet in space has different performance charactreristics and is equipped with different weapons.

Different planets have

different political systems that may be more or less favourable to you; highly entrepreneurial, trade orientated and so on.

Elite is by far the most impressive game Acornsoft have ever produced and, in terms of complexity, may be the best game ever for the BBC.

Warp factor five, Scotty.

Program *Elite*
Price *£14.95*
Micro *BBC*
Supplier *Acornsoft*
Betjeman House
104 Hills Road
Cambridge CB2 1LQ

DESPERATE

Slowly, perhaps more so than with any other machine, independent software is emerging for the QL. Despite the sophisticated features of the machine, the first programs to be released are following a weary and familiar path.

Quantum Soft is a small independent company that has issued two games at £9.95 each, *Hangman* and *Mastercode*, which turns out to be *Mastermind*. Both games are available on one microdrive for £14.00.

Hangman lets you choose from a number of different databases for the words. Standard graphics are used to create an OKish man whose fate is in the hands of your vocabulary.

The program plays *Hangman* well enough and has clearly had some effort spent on it but it is intrinsically unoriginal. It doesn't even match up to even the humblest Spectrum game. On the other hand, QL owners must be desperate for some software and I have seen bigger rip-offs in the early days of a new machine. Worth it if you're desperate.

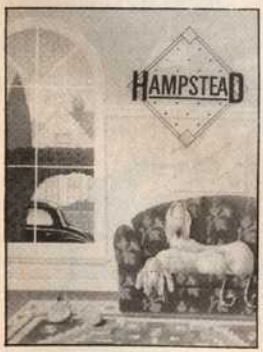
Program	*Hangman*
Price	*£9.95*
Micro	*QL*
Supplier	Quantum Soft Marloes Borrowby Thirsk North Yorkshire

HAMPSTEAD MAN

Hampstead is a machine-code text adventure being released by Melbourne House at the same time as *Sherlock Holmes* — although it is radically different in scope and intention.

Aside from the plot, the really odd thing about *Hampstead* is that it is written almost totally with *The Quill*. Which only goes to prove once again that if you want to write text adventures then *The Quill* is the program for you.

Hampstead is, technically, an unsophisticated adventure — nearly all the commands are simple Verb/Noun combinations but then that's hardly the point. The real point of *Hampstead* is that it is *funny* and the humour is genuine unlike some of the witless stuff which usually populates computer games.



The idea is not so much to find *Hampstead* but to attain *Hampstead* — to live and breath its very soul (Meuniére). You must rise up from your disgusting dole ridden origins, learn the correct codes and manners and, instead, become the kind of person who writes books looking sociologically and sympathetically at the plight of the unemployed.

Read the right books, wear the right clothes and marry into wealth. As an adventure it's moderately difficult but has obviously been designed with people who don't usually play adventure games in mind.

In fact, playing *Hampstead* is almost certainly going to become a pretty Hampstead-type thing to do. It has already been featured in one Sunday colour supplement and will almost certainly be featured in others.

I hope Gilsoft are being given something other than the mention that they ask for using *The Quill* on this one.

Program	*Hampstead*
Price	*£9.95*
Micro	*Spectrum*
Supplier	*Melbourne House* *Castle Yard House* *Castle Yard* *Richmond* *TW10 6TF*

TIME ZONE

Kokotoni Wilf you will have seen advertised a lot recently as a sort of super *Jet Set Willy*.

In fact it is only like *Jet Set* in the same way that lots of programs are — you dodge things, manoevre carefully and collect other things.

Other than that it is actually quite original. The idea is to collect the various pieces of the dragon amulet scattered throughout time — the hero is Kokotoni Wilf (I suppose Wilf beats Tharg as a name, hardly the stuff of heroes I'd have thought, though.)

There are 60 screens divided into six different time zones populated with the appropriate scene. The first age in the game has been made relatively easy so that you can get used to the way it works,

but even so I only managed about five out of ten screens.

The graphics are nice and mostly pretty detailed although Kokotoni himself is a bit small. Having different time zones makes for sharply contrasting screens and a good time should be had by all if you like this sort of game.

A Commodore version is also available.

Program	*Kokotoni Wilf*
Price	*£5.95*
Micro	*Spectrum*
Supplier	*Elite* *55 Bradford Street* *Walsall* *W. Midlands*

COMING SOON

Christmas is rapidly shaping up into a positive bonanza of exciting programs for the Spectrum.

After Deus Ex Machina and *Avalon*, we now have a pre-release glimpse of *Tir Na Nog* from Gargoyle Games.

This animated graphics adventure, due to be released in mid-October, looks as though it ought to sell awesomely. In some respects it is the closest thing yet to an interactive movie.

Tir Na Nog is loosely based on some authentic Celtic myths and concerns the adventures of the hero Cuchulainn as he tries to reassemble the fragments of the Seal of Calum.

The central character is represented by a beautifully animated (64 different frames) figures — 56 pixels high — who lollops determinedly across the screen under your control (complete with hair waving in the wind).

The figure walks, protects himself with any useful sword or stick he might have found, picks up and drops things and searches the world for clues to his quest. The entire vast landscape can be viewed from any compass direction with a special key being used to change the 'camera' viewpoint.

There are barrows, harps, volcanoes, a distant castle, doors locked and unlocked, and a variety of other creatures — most of them dangerous, with whom you will have to deal or fight. One group are the Sidhe, strange monkey-like creatures which look less harmless than they are. Other characters may be persuaded by one means or another to divulge important information or even give you parts of the Seal of Calum.

Finding your way around, working out what to do and how to treat the other creatures you meet requires a mixture of lateral and logical thought, fighting skill and, maybe, your local library where more information on the myth can be found.

Since obtaining some parts of the Siel depends on completing a number of sub-plots, Gargoyle are humorously speculating that this may be the first adventure that may take years to play and complete.

The plot has everything an adventurer could want and the graphics are amazing — the simple expedient of making the part of the screen, ie, the bottom section, all one colour has meant that there is no colour-res problem and consequently not a trace of flicker.

If you have to buy one game at Christmas for your Spectrum this, so far (September) could well get my vote.

I'm looking forward to the finished game with great anticipation.

Compiled by Graham Taylor

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Write on, Rom

Have you ever noticed how human nature makes us want to leave our mark on the world?

I'm not talking of ambition or the altruistic ideals of leaving the world a better place, I mean the desire to scratch your name on the rocks by Niagara Falls.

It comes to nearly all of us from time to time. We somehow want to communicate with unknown people who visit the same place at a future date.

The most famous example of this is the "Kilroy Was Here" messages said to be left all over the world by American servicemen during World War II. Various explanations have been proposed for this particular fashion, including espionage activity, markers left by the catering corps, and adolescent hysteria. I think that whoever was actually leaving their mark in this way was really combining two impulses. They were 'joining the club' by all writing the same name and they were satisfying that need to communicate with peoples, unknown when in strange places.

The men and women who produce computers are people just the same and are often afflicted with this same desire to leave their mark. Where better to leave their mark than in the systems they are producing. Usually such signatures are well hidden, the point is for such marks only to be found by a small number of people who are probably looking for just such a mark.

As a simple and well known example, have a look at the end of the Basic Rom in a BBC micro (using the monitor I mean, don't take the machine to bits). Right at the end the message "roger" appears, left there by Roger Wilson the software author.

Acorn is not the only manufacturer to give its workers a chance to leave their names in Rom. The Camputers Lynx Rom starts off with the names Davis and Susy. Davis is Davis Jansons one of the Rom's authors — I don't know who Susy may be, perhaps another software writer, or a friend.

Even Sinclair does not seem to be totally immune to the graffiti game, although I have never found or heard reference to any names left in the Rom. Those mysterious letters used to indicate different versions of QL Rom, such as FB and AH, are the initials of various engineers working for Sinclair Research. JM for example stands for John Mathieson. I cannot say which ones are about to be given pay rises and which ones have now moved to the opposition. Perhaps the final version of the QL will be called CS.

Perhaps the most interesting case to come my way recently is that of a pre-production computer which has been recently announced in the UK (I cannot name it directly) which contains the names FRED B., TERRY RT., and MIKE I. at 48160 (BC20h).Perhaps these names will be erased in the production version. No other names appear this explicitly in the Rom but I came across something of interest whilst hunting for something else. On entering "SYS 52680" some additional names are printed to screen, these being F. BOWEN, J. COOPER, B. HERD, and T. RYAN.

Now these may be legitimate employees of the microcomputer manufacturer, but I have a sneeking suspicion that they actually represent the software house, a completely different organisation. Their names were well hidden and this may reflect the mistrust of the manufacturer by the software writers.

What next in the Rom graffiti world? I have yet to find a sentence or anything other than initials and names.

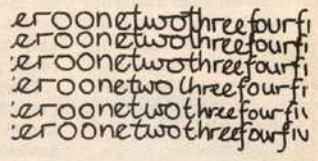
If anyone else has found any interesting things in their Rom why not drop me a line?

John Cochrane

Nine, nine, nine

Puzzle No 126

I asked Tom to think of a digit (not zero) and write it down three times in a row. I then asked Dick to think of a different digit and to write this three times alongside Tom's three digits. Finally, Jane was to choose a third digit, different from the other two, and write it down three times at the end of the row so forming a nine-digit number.



For instance, if they had thought of one, two, and three respectively the number written down would have been 111222333. However, the number that was formed proved to be just one less than a perfect square.

What was the number?

Solution to Puzzle No 121

There were 17576 blocks cut from an original cube 26 units along each side. A square pyramid of 37 tiers in height would use just 17575 of the blocks.

The program calculates the number of individual blocks in square pyramids of ascending size. It then checks to see if this number (plus one) is equal to a cubic number.

```
10 T = 0 20 N = 1 30 T = T + N * N 40 X = (T + 1) (1/3) 50 X = VAL (STR$(X)) 60 IF X = INT(X) THEN PRINT N;T;X 70 N = N + 1 80 GOTO 30
```

Winner of Puzzle No 121

The winner is M J Fecher, Hungerford Drive, Maidenhead, Berks, who receives £10.

Rules

The closing date for entries to Puzzle No 126 is October 6. If the puzzle can be sensibly solved using a computer, then the winner will have included a listing of the program used to find the correct answer.

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